

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ST. PETERSBURG AUDUBON SOCIETY CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, the St. Petersburg Audubon Society celebrates its centennial anniversary this month, marking 100 years of serving our community's conservation and awareness of local birds and the wild areas they call home.

The St. Petersburg chapter, Florida's oldest, was founded in 1909 as part of a crusade by the Florida and National Audubon Society to save wading birds from extinction. At that time, birds' feathers, aigrettes, and wings were used to decorate women's hats. This threatened many of Florida's unique wading birds with extinction. The result of this effort was the saving of these species of birds for future generations of Floridians and visitors to Florida to watch and enjoy.

The St. Petersburg chapter, under the leadership of President Mauri Peterson; Vice President Maureen Arnold; Secretary Nancy Ogden; Treasurer Rick Potter; and Board Members Harold Albers, Mary Brazier, Wanda Dean, Judi Hopkins, Saskia Janes, Dave Kandz, Mark Mueller, Lee Snyder, and Alice Tenney; continues to serve our community in many important ways including conservation leadership and educational opportunities. These activities include weekly field trips, monthly programs, and a long list of volunteer activities.

Specifically, the St. Petersburg Audubon Society raises funds to give Pinellas County fourth grade students an Audubon Adventure program, to provide scholarships to National Audubon Ecology Camps for local teachers, and to give monetary awards to Science Fair winners. The chapter also hosts its annual Pinellas Native Plant Society meeting every December to bring together members of local environmental organizations for a time of celebration and education.

The members of the chapter have also done what they do best — protect our shorebirds and habitats. They helped establish the Shell Key County Preserve and they led an effort to conduct a comprehensive study of beach-nesting birds in partnership with Eckerd College, Pinellas County government employees, and public land managers.

Chapter members have even taken their work neighborhood to neighborhood and house to house through their "In Harmony With Nature" programs to help homeowners create wildlife-friendly habitats in their yards and to become aware of bird nesting in their own neighborhoods. And they continue to sponsor annual Migratory and Christmas Bird Counts, a Florida tradition that dates back to 1900.

A special exhibit about the centennial celebration will be unveiled this Saturday at the St.

Petersburg History Museum. It will feature information about the chapter's founder Katherine Bell Tippetts, milestones from the chapter's history, and information about the chapter's continuing commitment to the community.

Madam Speaker, The St. Petersburg Audubon Society continues to serve our community today just as energetically as it has throughout these past 100 years. The members of the chapter volunteer to protect our local wildlife and natural habitats and to make Pinellas County a better place to live. Please join me in congratulating the members of the St. Petersburg Audubon Society for their rich history of service.

CRYSTAL BELL AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend seven exceptional teachers from Northwest Indiana who have been recognized as outstanding educators by their peers for the 2008–2009 school year. These individuals are: Robert Backe, Elizabeth Eaton, Wendy Magley, John McCarthy, Nancy McClatchey, Tom Reed, and Donna Scheidt. For their outstanding efforts, these honorees will be presented with the Crystal Bell Award at a reception sponsored by the Indiana State Teachers Association. This prestigious event will take place at the Andorra Restaurant and Banquets in Schererville, Indiana, on Tuesday, May 5, 2009.

Robert Backe, an eighth grade science teacher at Grimmer Middle School, has been in the teaching profession for more than 38 years with the Lake Central School Corporation. Throughout his tenure, Bob has always made a point of bringing fun and enjoyable learning into his labs in order to make sure his students remain interested and actively involved in science. In just one of many examples of his innovative lessons, Bob, an avid Chicago White Sox fan, organized a trip to a game as a means of showing his students how even a baseball game can be integrated into their studies.

Elizabeth Eaton, from the Hanover Community School Corporation, has been a role model and a true inspiration to not only her students but to adults in her community as well. For the past 38 years, Elizabeth has motivated her students to excel inside and outside her classroom. Known for her expertise in gardening, Elizabeth's efforts have led to the creation of an outdoor lab at Lincoln Elementary School. For the past 11 years, she, with the assistance of many of her students, has worked tirelessly to preserve this remarkable example of nature's beauty. For her efforts, Elizabeth Eaton has been named the "Lake County Conservation Teacher of the Year," and her lab has been recognized for being the first of its kind in Lake County.

This year's recipient of the Crystal Bell Award from the Tri-Creek School Corporation is Wendy Magley. Wendy, of Lowell Senior High School, has been in the teaching profession for the past 28 years. The passion Wendy has for teaching and for her students goes far beyond the classroom. In addition to the grueling task of preparing for six English classes, Wendy also coaches basketball, where she instills in her players the same principles of hard work and dedication that she expects of her students. One other example of the immense impact she has had on her school and her students, Wendy spearheaded the creation of the Lowell High School Shakespeare Festival, which has been a memorable experience for hundreds of high school students.

Currently an elementary school teacher at Ernest R. Elliott Elementary School, John McCarthy is this year's recipient from the School Town of Munster. A truly selfless educator, John has made a point of preparing children to not only become better students but to become better people as well. John's desire to accomplish this goal is witnessed through his dedication to the Camp Tecumseh program. As participants in this program, Elliott Elementary's fifth graders partake in activities that promote team-building, positive values, and personal growth. In addition to his personal involvement with the students, John has also served on numerous committees with the School Town of Munster that aim to improve the quality of life and education for the students.

Nancy McClatchey, this year's recipient from the North Newton School Corporation, has had an outstanding teaching career, marked by innovative programs that allow her students the opportunity to experience real-world settings as part of their curriculum. Over the past 19 years, the Family and Consumer Science teacher at North Newton High School has developed a program that is recognized statewide. An educator whose responsibilities seem endless, Nancy's efforts have led to the creation of the ProStart Culinary Arts Program, which aims to make students better prepared for careers in the food service industry, and the Advanced Child Development and Cadet Teaching programs, which allow aspiring future educators the opportunity to gain critical experience in a classroom setting.

This year's recipient of the Crystal Bell Award from the Crown Point School Corporation is Thomas J. Reed. Tom has been nurturing young minds and sharing his passion for music for the past 22 years. Known for his enthusiasm and willingness to put in extra time to work individually with his students, Tom has also had an immense impact on younger educators. Tom has shown true commitment to his students and his community through donating his time and efforts to programs such as the local 4H and the Lake County Fair. He has also made his mark on his community through his musical abilities, where he can often be found performing at weddings, at church, and within the community.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Donna Scheidt, this year's recipient from the School Town of Highland, is known for her ability to engage her students in a way few other teachers can. For the past 13 years, Donna, an eighth grade language arts teacher at Highland Middle School, has constantly devised new ways to bring classic literature into her classroom. It is not uncommon to witness Donna as a character from a classic story to help bring the author's words to life. Donna's ability to reach others is not limited to her students. She has also taken a lead in developing staff and the school's curriculum. In fact, many of her colleagues would tell you they have grown from her guidance just as her students have.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding educators on their receipt of the 2009 Crystal Bell Award. Their years of hard work have played a major role in shaping the minds and futures of Northwest Indiana's young people, and each recipient is truly an inspiration to us all.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 94th anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide, which was the first genocide of the 20th century and sadly, the template for a cycle of genocide that continues to this very day.

It is, by any reasonable standard, established history that between 1915 and 1923 the Ottoman Empire systematically killed an estimated 1.5 million Armenians and drove hundreds of thousands of others into exile from their ancestral homeland. The record of this atrocity is well documented in the United States Archives and has been universally accepted in the International Association of Genocide Scholars and the broader historical and academic communities.

This year, our Nation has the opportunity to finally recognize the Armenian Genocide as such in the annual commemoration from the White House. Year after year, we have seen the same standard letter from the White House which offers sympathy and apology for the "mass killings," yet refused to label these events as genocide. However, President Obama made promises during his campaign that he would right this wrong, and recognize the Armenian Genocide. I am hopeful Madam Speaker, we finally escape from being under Turkey's thumb on this issue. It is vital our Nation has a foreign policy that accurately reflects history.

Despite my optimism, I am told yet again that now is not the right time for our Nation to recognize the Armenian Genocide. Two years ago, we were told recognition would hurt our troops fighting in Iraq. Four years ago we were told the same thing. This year, we're being told that recognizing the Armenian Genocide will hurt American jobs. How? We cannot develop a foreign policy based solely on what other countries want to hear about their past. Should we not recognize the Soviet

orchestrated famine which killed millions in the Ukraine? Should we allow Cambodia to rewrite the atrocities committed under the reign of the Khmer Rouge? What if our schools stopped teaching the American Revolution and we stopped celebrating the Fourth of July because it offended the British? All nations must recognize past events, both good and bad, and learn from it.

To ensure Congress does not mention or pass the Armenian Genocide resolution, Turkey hires powerful and expensive lobbyists to meet with Members and staff, distort the historical facts, and make veiled threats on what might happen if the Genocide is recognized. For the last 20 years, Turkey has been very successful. I firmly believe that we should work with foreign nations on challenges and mutual interests. However, I do not believe another nation can hold our foreign policy decisions hostage because they do not want to admit to dark periods in their past. It is unacceptable that we continue to allow threats from Turkey to hinder our Nation from recognizing a historical fact that has been recognized by historians, scholars, theologians, philosophers, common people, and President Ronald Reagan.

My district is home to thousands of Armenian-Americans, many who are the sons and daughters of survivors. When I am home, I am often approached in the store or on the street by my Armenian friends asking when our country will honor their parents and finally recognize the genocide. We are quickly approaching the 100th anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide, and I am hopeful we do not have to wait until then to bring justice to my Armenian friends and neighbors.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I will say again, genocide is not something that can simply be swept under the rug and forgotten. We need leaders around the world to not only recognize it, but to condemn it so the world can truly say "Never Again." The United States cannot continue its policy of denial regarding the Armenian Genocide, and I encourage passage of H. Res. 252 to recognize the Armenian Genocide in our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO KIDANGO

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kidango, a quality early education and child care provider with administrative offices in Fremont, California. Kidango is celebrating 30 years of serving children in the California cities of Fremont, San Jose, Livermore, Dublin, Union City and Newark with plans for expansion in San Jose and Hayward.

In 1979, formerly known as Tri-Cities Children's Center, is now known by the community as Kidango. Kidango began providing mental health consultation to the staff and parents of the children enrolled at Kidango. Utilizing a relationship-based training strategy, staff was specially trained to understand and work with children with social and emotional challenges.

Kidango has a long history of serving children, including infants with developmental

delays and disabilities, by providing Early Intervention Services. In 1994, Kidango merged with the Agency for Infant Development and expanded Kidango's services to children with special needs.

In 2002, Kidango created its own in-house mental health department and Inclusion Team comprised of staff from its Education, Intervention and Mental Health Departments. This program utilizes the relationships developed with families and teachers to provide effective mental health services and responsiveness to the special needs of all children.

Seven Kidango centers in San Jose, California received the honor of being designated as Smart San Jose sites. Smart San Jose is the City of San Jose's premier Early Education Initiative that works to expand the availability of high quality, affordable early care and education spaces in centers and family child care homes.

In 2006, Kidango added Community Family Services as part of their expansive program offerings. This partnership strengthened the work Kidango does with children and families by allowing Kidango to serve more infants and those children who do better in a family child care home environment.

Kidango currently serves 3,300 children annually through its quality early care and education programs, child development services, early intervention services, Mental Health Department, Head Start Department and Community Family Services.

I join the community in recognizing Kidango on its 30th anniversary of exemplary service in childcare, education and child development services to meet the diverse needs of children and families throughout the Bay Area. I send best wishes to Kidango for continued success.

HONORING WORLD MALARIA DAY

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, a person dies of malaria every 30 seconds. The vast majority of these deaths occur in children under five years in age. Today, malaria continues to cripple developing countries with the high costs of treatment and the loss of productivity.

However, there is continued hope on the horizon. A recently discovered drug could prevent mutations that led to drug resistance. There are significant efforts to discover a malaria vaccine, with over 20 vaccines currently in development. Treatment with A.C.T. is extremely effective, but unfortunately unavailable to poor people in developing nations who are ill and dying.

We must remember that almost half the world's population is at risk of dying from this preventable and treatable disease.

Madam Speaker, let us recommit ourselves with renewed vigor this World Malaria Day, April 25, to combat malaria and rid the developing world of this scourge.

HONORING TALLULAH FALLS
SCHOOL ON THE OCCASION OF
ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. I rise today to honor the centennial anniversary of an outstanding institution in my district: Tallulah Falls School. Located in Northeast Georgia near the Chattooga River, this school continues to thrive after one hundred years of instilling impeccable values and a superb work ethic in its students.

Though the school was formally dedicated on June 30, 1909, its first director, Mary Ann Lipscomb, began teaching the poor Georgia mountain children to read on her front porch in 1905. Quickly noticing the poor living conditions and a dire need for basic education, Mrs. Lipscomb petitioned the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs to establish a school at Tallulah Falls.

Right away Tallulah Falls School was appreciated by the surrounding community. Not long after its creation, this school was recognized across the nation as a success by both the Dean of American Journalism and Good Housekeeping. In 1944, the original Willet Building was destroyed by fire. But within seven months, over \$55,000 had been raised for reconstruction—an amazing amount considering that the Great Depression was just coming to an end and World War II was raging.

In the late 1980's, the school once again gained national exposure when nine of its students, led by Martha Cantrell, met with President George H.W. Bush to receive their award for naming the space shuttle Endeavour. Today, this great school is still producing successful citizens while expanding to include both boarding students and day students.

As many in Congress seek new and untested policies on education, I urge my colleagues to instead look to what has worked for a hundred years; the tried and true principles of Tallulah Falls School. We can learn so much from this school as we learn from its past and applaud its growth into the future.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the great effort by the teachers and students of Tallulah Falls School and congratulate them on celebrating 100 years of academic excellence.

100TH BIRTHDAY OF GENEVA
POOLE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Geneva Williamson Poole on a momentous milestone, her 100th birthday, which will be on April 16, 2009. Geneva will be celebrating this milestone with family and friends on Saturday, April 18, 2009, at her home in Gary, Indiana. One of Gary's proudest and most adored residents for over 63 years, Geneva Williamson Poole is an inspiration to countless members of her community as well as her beloved family.

Geneva Williamson Poole was born on April 16, 1909, in Augusta, Georgia, to John and Mary Williamson. Geneva was raised with three sisters and two brothers and was brought up on strong Southern values and profound love. In 1936, she moved to Gary, Indiana, making her home with her four children: Justine, Virginia, Jerome, and Berniece, and her husband, Charlie Poole. Through the years, Geneva worked at many local businesses in Northwest Indiana, including: Barnette's Clothing Store, Dave's Fur Store, Westville Hospital, and Kingsbury Ordnance Plant. While she enjoyed the positions she held, Geneva devoted her life to her family and her community. Geneva's belief in strong family values has taught her children and grandchildren the meaning of a strong work ethic, the value of education, and how important it is for family and communities to stick together. Always leading by example, in 1982, Geneva planted a community garden at the end of her block, and she would give the fruits and vegetables to the people of the neighborhood. An extraordinary cook, Geneva was also known for hosting elaborate dinner parties for family and members of the community. As a senior citizen, Geneva adopted two children, Kathy and Vanetta, and helped raise her thirteen grandchildren. In the summers, Geneva has enjoyed opening her home to her grandchildren and teaching them how to sew, cook, garden, and fish. Geneva's passion for family has touched not only those related to her but also many members of the community. For passing along such essential family values, Geneva is worthy of our deepest admiration.

In addition to her remarkable dedication to her family, Geneva continues to serve her community as an active member at Israel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Gary, where she participates in many of the church's programs. Geneva has many friends and loved ones within the church who look to her for advice. They share a common respect for her commendable qualities, including her intelligence, wit, strength and perseverance. She is truly an inspiration and a role model for us all.

Madam Speaker, Geneva Williamson Poole has always generously given her time and efforts to preserving family values and strengthening the community in Gary, Indiana. She has taught her family, friends, and members of her community the true meaning of selfless devotion. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in wishing Geneva a very Happy 100th Birthday!

HONORING THE VILLAGE OF LOMBARD
ON ITS 140TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 140th Anniversary of the incorporation of Lombard, Illinois, in the heart of my Congressional District.

In 1837, Sheldon Peck and his family settled on 80 acres in what was then known as Babcock's Grove. In 1869, the Village of Lombard was incorporated.

In the years since its humble founding, Lombard has become a center of culture and commerce, serving as a home to businesses, professionals, churches and organizations that have made this a vibrant and thriving community. Over the years, Lombard has developed a well-deserved reputation as an enjoyable place to live, work and raise a family.

On the occasion of this 140th Anniversary, we join together to celebrate Lombard's legacy of growth and prosperity, and to look ahead to the opportunities facing our local community and our nation. Today both marks 140 years of working together to build a brighter future, and reminds us that our work continues.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing Lombard Village President Bill Mueller, the Village Board of Trustees and the citizens of Lombard in wishing them happiness on this special occasion.

IN TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL STERN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Michael Stern, an extraordinary man who passed away on April 7, 2009 at the age of 98. He was a journalist, author, genius and visionary, and I was deeply fortunate to count him as a friend.

In 1978, he joined with his good friend Zachary Fisher, to save the aircraft carrier Intrepid from mothballs and use it as the base for an extraordinary museum situated in Pier 86 on the West Side of Manhattan. Since it opened its doors in 1982, the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum has served more than 10 million visitors. Mr. Stern knew that the Intrepid was one of the most successful ships in U.S. history, and that it would be a fitting monument to the heroism of our nation's military.

Commissioned during World War II, the Intrepid served in the Pacific Theater, survived five kamikaze attacks and one torpedoing. In its year and a half of active duty, Intrepid's aircraft had destroyed 301 Japanese airplanes and helped sink 122 enemy ships, including shared credit for the super-battleships Yamato and Musashashi. The ship went on to serve as one of the primary recovery vessels for NASA, did three tours of duty off Vietnam, and assisted submarine surveillance in the North Atlantic during the Cold War.

Together, Mr. Stern and Mr. Fisher also created the Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation at Rockefeller University and Fisher Houses, a program to build houses for families of hospitalized military personnel to stay near to their loved ones while they are receiving treatment. After Mr. Fisher's death, Mr. Stern started the Michael Stern Parkinson's Research Foundation. I serve on the Board of Trustees of both research foundations and know that they support vital research to find cures for these devastating neurological diseases. Scientists tell us that the two diseases may have a common cause and, therefore, a common cure. Mr. Stern hoped the work he supported would eventually lead to that cure.

Mr. Stern joined the United States Army in 1943 as a war correspondent for Fawcett Publications and the North American Newspaper

Alliance. He was first shipped out to Algeria, and later traveled with American forces through Sicily and up the boot of Italy. He arrived in Rome just one day ahead of U.S. troops. As a young journalist from Brooklyn, he writes of feeling slightly provincial in the face of Rome's cosmopolitan ethos and rich historical past. Nonetheless, he relates that the city inspired him, thrilled him, made him become more worldly and knowledgeable. He made it his home for the next 50 years.

In the foreword to Mr. Stern's book, *An American in Rome*, Robert Ruark creates a vivid portrait of him as a journalist in Italy: "Michael Stern is a myth. He never really existed outside a scriptwriter's imagination. He dug up and lived with the most famous outlaw of our time when ten thousand Italian police couldn't locate Salvatore Giuliano. He wrote the definitive pieces on such unlikely people as Lucky Luciano, Virginia Hill, Dorothy DiFrasso, Geroge Dawson, Freddie McEvoy, Roberto Rossellini, Vincenzo Moscatello and Calouste Sarkis Gubenkian. . . . The reason a lot of people hate Mike Stern's guts is that he is a writer of harsh truth. . . . Don't get me wrong. Mike's an operator. He's an arranger, a dealer, and if necessary, a law unto himself. He does not play to lose. If he were a baseball player, he'd dust off his mother to protect his earned run average, and if he were a boxer he would unhesitatingly club you in the neck to win. . . . I have seen people stop by his table in a Roman caffè and say: 'You son of a bitch, I'll kill you for what you wrote about me.' Mike doesn't even bother to scowl. So many people have been threatening to kill him for years that one more is only a bore. This is a tough boy, and he writes tough prose. I wish to Christ we had more like him in a sappy, soggy world of cotton-wooled halftruths."

Before becoming a war correspondent, Mr. Stern wrote for *True Crime* magazine and other publication, sometimes using his own name, sometimes employing a pseudonym. Later, he authored or co-authored a number of books, including *Flight From Terror*, *Into the Jaws of Death*, *No Innocence Abroad* and *An American in Rome*.

In 1934, Mr. Stern married Estelle Goldstein, who died in 1995. In addition to his daughter, Margaret, of Manhattan, he is survived by a son, Michael Jr., of Juno Beach, Fla., and a granddaughter.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying respects to Michael Stern, a true American hero whose work has educated, inspired and benefitted generations of Americans.

RECOGNIZING JOHN T. ASDAL OF THE VILLAGES, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John T. Asdal of The Villages, Florida. Mr. Asdal later this week will reach a momentous milestone. He will celebrate his 90th birthday.

John is a decorated veteran of the United States Army, serving from the 25th of May 1942 to the 11th of October 1945. He served with Company B, 1st Battalion 16th Infantry

Regiment 1st Infantry Division in North Africa and Sicily. He served with Company H, 36th (Texas) Infantry Division in Italy.

Mr. Asdal participated in four major battles with the 1st and 36th Divisions, Kasserine Pass, Mateur Tunisia, Rapido River Italy and Monte Cassino Italy. The professional skill and personal devotion displayed by Mr. Asdal was repeatedly recognized by the military and reflects his immense commitment and sacrifice.

A rarity to be so decorated, John was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Honorable Service Lapel Button, and three Service Stars. His unit received Presidential Citations for Mateur Tunisia & Sicily, French Croix de Guerre for Kasserine, and an Arrowhead for Algeria French Morocco. Because of his extensive time on the front lines and immense sacrifice, Mr. Asdal was among the earliest troops to be able to return to the U.S. in 1944.

I am honored to have such a decorated and respected citizen as a constituent. Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring John T. Asdal for reaching his 90th birthday. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as a life and with such distinction as Mr. Asdal.

COMMEMORATING THE 94TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the victims of the Armenian genocide and ask my colleagues to support H. Res. 252, a bill to commemorate the Armenian genocide.

Over 94 years ago this week, Ottoman Empire authorities arrested some 250 Armenian community and political leaders in Constantinople. This event signaled the beginning of the deliberate and systematic mass murder of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children.

From 1915–1923, more than a million Armenians were forced to resettle in Ottoman Syria. To get there, ethnic Armenians were told to march from Turkish Armenia, many of them dying of starvation, disease, or massacre by Turkish forces. Those who survived faced continued abuse at the hands of the Turkish authorities, causing the rest of the population to perish or flee the region as refugees. This effectively eliminated the Armenian population from the Ottoman Empire.

Despite facing some of the worst atrocities of the modern world, Armenians have overcome adversity and continue to prosper as an independent, democratic state. The United States and Armenia have built a long-lasting, strong relationship and we continue to stand by our friend and ally to sustain cooperation on issues of global and regional importance.

As citizens of a global society, we have a solemn obligation not to ignore history or the horrific events of the past. The Armenian genocide marks the first known genocide of the 20th Century, a century only sadly to be

marred by repeated offenses against humanity from the Holocaust to Darfur. To commemorate this inhumane event reminds us that ethnic conflict still plagues the modern world and is a pressing issue for the international community. As a member of the Congressional Armenian Caucus and the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, I remain committed to achieving a future free from unnecessary violence, hatred, and indifference.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering and acknowledging the American genocide and the victims of its atrocities to ensure we do not repeat the mistakes of the past.

"NICK ROUSSOS: AN AMERICAN HERO"

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, our jobs as Members of Congress are sources of great satisfaction to us, but there are occasional downsides. For me, the worst is the fact that I cannot literally be in two places at one time on certain occasions. One of those is coming up. On Friday, May 1st, at a time when I already committed myself irrevocably to be elsewhere, the Arnold M. Dubin Labor Education Center at the University of Massachusetts/Dartmouth will be celebrating the life of the late Nicholas Roussos.

Madam Speaker, at a time when we are trying to pass legislation that will restore to American working men and women the right to be fairly represented in the workplace through unions of their choosing, it is poignant that Nick Roussos passed away. No one I have ever worked with has been a better, more dedicated, tougher, and at the same time gentler crusader for the rights of working people than Nick Roussos. As a leader in the Southeastern Massachusetts branch of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, and as a prominent member of the leadership of the labor movement in general, both in Southeastern Massachusetts and in the Commonwealth, Nick Roussos embodied the best in that activity.

I first met him in 1981, when congressional redistricting sent me to the City of Fall River to look for support. I found a strong supporter. But more importantly, I found a great friend and a source of inspiration. No one who worked with Nick Roussos—no one exposed to his infectious humor even in the face of the greatest adversity—could become jaded for too long. At the tensest moments I had to deal with. I would find excuses to call Nick and get the encouragement and energy that he could dispense as well as anybody else, and far more than most.

Economic trends, especially trade policy, have been unkind and unfair to the people that Nick represented. But he never gave up fighting hard for justice for them.

Madam Speaker, Nick Roussos was an American hero. He did as much as was humanly possible to improve the quality of life for his neighbors and for the people he represented.

And it's important to note that those whom he dealt with on the industry side shared the

great respect for him that I have expressed here.

Madam Speaker, the Arnold M. Dubin Labor Education Center is an institution in which he vigorously participated, and it does a great deal to carry on the best traditions of American labor policy. I very much regret that I cannot join so many of my friends in honoring Nick Roussos on May 1st, but I do want to take this opportunity to remind people of the spirit that he embodied and of the need for us to enact legislation that will allow people like Nick Roussos to continue the work that they have done on behalf of those most in need of assistance.

HONORING SUE CARY

HON. BILL CASSIDY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sue Cary, for her dedication and contributions to nephrology nursing and kidney patients in Louisiana and across the country. Sue is one of my constituents from Baton Rouge and has served as President of the American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA) in 2008 and 2009. Sue has been an active member of ANNA for 24 years—serving in a variety of leadership roles. As ANNA President, she has implemented a broad range of initiatives that will continue to improve care for patients whose lives depend on dialysis and other kidney replacement treatments.

ANNA is one of the largest and most prestigious nursing associations in America. The organization is the recognized leader in nephrology nursing practice, education, research, and advocacy. ANNA's members are registered nurses and health care professionals that care for patients of all ages who are experiencing, or are at risk for, kidney disease.

Approximately 20 million Americans have chronic kidney disease. While African Americans only make up about 12 percent of the U.S., they constitute about 32 percent of chronic kidney disease cases and are 4 times more likely than Caucasians to develop kidney failure.

I urge my colleagues to take advantage of the educational opportunities offered by ANNA to learn more about kidney disease. I believe this information will help our nation better understand the issues facing kidney disease patients and nephrology nurses.

Sue Cary has also recognized the importance of recruiting and retaining nephrology nurses to help ensure the future of the profession. She currently is a key figure in ANNA's annual "Nephrology Nurses Week," a national campaign that recognizes and celebrates the critical role of nephrology nurses in patient care. During another annual ANNA event, Kidney Disease Awareness and Education (KDAE) Week, Sue and other nephrology nurses across the country invite state and federal legislators to visit dialysis units to learn more about kidney disease and treatments in their districts.

Professionally, Sue Cary has worked as a Nurse Practitioner in Louisiana and has served as an Associate Professor, in the Division of Nursing, at Our Lady of the Lake Col-

lege from 1990–2003. She has also worked as an adjunct clinical nursing faculty member for Loyola University's Registered Nurse (RN) to Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN) program, where she was responsible for the clinical component of the programs' "Community Health Course."

Please join me in commending Sue Cary for her years of service.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding an earmark I received as part of H.R. 1824, the Best Buddies Empowerment for People with Intellectual Disabilities Act of 2009.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Best Buddies.

Address of Requesting Entity: 100 Southeast Second Street, Suite 2200, Miami, FL 33131.

Description of Request: \$10 million will be authorized to provide assistance to Best Buddies, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people with intellectual disabilities, to promote the expansion of Best Buddies, including activities to increase the participation of people with intellectual disabilities in social relationships and other aspects of community life, including education and employment, within the United States.

IN RECOGNITION OF BALLET ACADEMY EAST ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ballet Academy East (BAE) as it celebrates its 30th Anniversary. BAE was founded in September 1979 by Julia Dubno, who continues to serve as its director and inspiring leader.

Ms. Dubno opened BAE in a brownstone on East 79th Street featuring one small studio. Under Ms. Dubno's careful tutelage the school has flourished, growing in size and reputation. Today the school occupies 5 spacious studios and features a world renowned faculty. Ms. Dubno has assembled a talented group of teachers and musicians to work with all levels of students from two year olds through adults. The school introduces toddlers to the concept of dance, provides a nurturing environment for training older children and enables adults of all ages to stay in shape.

There are times when it seems that every small girl on the Upper East Side is taking ballet class at BAE. Toddlers in pink leotards and their mothers or caretakers flock to BAE's building every day. The elevators are crowded with youngsters in strollers, scrambling to put on ballet slippers as they rush to class. They

find a ballet fantasy world, filled with music, movement, story-telling and dance.

While toddlers of every degree of interest in dance are welcomed, by the time children reach first grade, the school begins to evaluate and grade students with an eye to preparing them for the rigorous world of dance. In the afternoon, these older children arrive, exuding a sense of purpose and a desire to succeed. Advanced students rave about the fact that instruction really seems to be a group effort, with each class complementing the others. The pre-professional program consists of classical training that is intended to prepare young dancers for any professional company. Combinations become more advanced as students improve their technique. BAE's faculty help students discover a love of dance and enable skilled students to improve their technique. Students find that BAE allows them to expand as artists, discovering their strengths and finding ways to overcome their weaknesses. BAE students perform for the public at annual spring and studio performances, and as part of Dances Patrelle's annual Nutcracker.

Darla Hoover (former member of New York City Ballet) is the artistic advisor and coordinator for the graded level program. Graduates have gone on to perform with many national and regional ballet companies or to attend other topnotch ballet schools, including the School of American Ballet, Dance Theater of Harlem Ensemble, Nashville Ballet School, BalletMet, Nashville Ballet II and Kansas City Ballet. Students often return for additional classes. As one student wrote in the most recent newsletter: "Change is good, but it's always nice to know you can go back."

The school was thrilled to welcome Cynthia Gregory, whom Rudolf Nureyev once called "America's prima ballerina assoluta," as one of its Permanent Guest Faculty. She staged Michael Fokine's Les Sylphides for the BAE Student Company Studio Showing in February.

For adults working to stay in shape or seeking to improve flexibility or muscle tone, BAE offers Open Classes for adult students of all levels in Pilates, yoga, jazz, and modern. Adults laud the intimate classes and the dedication of the faculty. Instructors are knowledgeable and willing to offer advice so that even the most advanced dancers can improve.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the great contributions Ballet Academy East has made in training young ballerinas, and Julia Dubno for guiding young people to achieve their best.

HONORING NAPOLEON TOWNSHIP FIRE CHIEF JAY HAWLEY

HON. MARK H. SCHAUER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. SCHAUER. Madam Speaker, I am proud today to honor a truly outstanding public servant, Napoleon Township Fire Chief Jay Hawley, as April marks the 35th anniversary of his service as a Napoleon firefighter.

Jay's unwavering dedication to the community, the breadth of his experience, the depth of his knowledge, and his skill as a leader are cornerstones the Napoleon Township Fire Department's long success rests on. He is endlessly creative in finding ways to do more with

less—stretching every local dollar through regional cooperation, obtaining financial grants from a wide array of external sources, and the old fashioned approach of just plain spending every fire department dollar wisely.

Jay is open to new ideas, willing to listen, ready to change, and always ready to cooperate for the larger good. He has been a tireless leader at the regional level on initiatives to improve emergency responder communications, strengthen training, pool fire resources, and enhance safety. He is never concerned with who gets credit for success, only that success is achieved.

How many millions of dollars in property were spared and how many dozens of lives were saved through Jay's efforts may never be known, but Napoleon Township and surrounding communities know he is owed a debt of gratitude that can never be fully repaid.

IN TRIBUTE TO JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN, HISTORIAN AND ACTIVIST

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life and achievements of John Hope Franklin, and his dedication to, "weave into the fabric of American history enough of the presence of blacks so that the story of the United States could be told adequately and fairly." In March 2009, the passing of John Hope Franklin removed from the world a scholar whose academic excellence was profound in its effect on modern U.S. history. Though he is no longer with us we will not forget the contributions he has made to this country and the world.

John Hope Franklin succeeded in his intention to recognize the presence of African Americans in our history and through his scholarship which was unparalleled in its brilliance and so complete that it was universally acclaimed. He created an awareness of the role of the African American in American history that did not exist prior to his work.

John Hope Franklin was born just fifty years after the Emancipation Proclamation in Rentiesville, Oklahoma on January 2, 1915. He graduated from Fisk University in 1935 and earned a PhD from Harvard University in 1941. From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African-Americans, perhaps his most famous book, traces the African-American journey from the African continent to their struggle for equality in the twentieth century. Through his efforts to explain that African-American history is American history, John Hope Franklin himself became an integral actor in that history not only through his published scholarly papers but through his engagement in the Civil Rights Movement, beginning with the part he played in the landmark case of Brown vs. Board of Education and subsequently as an activist scholar providing an eloquent voice for the Movement.

John Hope Franklin was a true scholar and activist. Through his life he has inspired generations of historians. Today, I am proud to pay tribute to the life of Mr. John Hope Franklin.

ALLEN CAYIR, ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. BACCA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Allen Cayir, President of Transech Engineers, Inc., who will receive the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Established in 1986 by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor pays tribute to our nation's immigrant heritage by recognizing those individuals whose achievements have helped to foster respect and understanding for America's ethnic diversity. Since the award began, recipients have included United States Senators, Congressman, Nobel Laureates, military leaders, outstanding athletes, and clergy.

A native of Turkey, Mr. Cayir, or "Ali" as he is known to his friends, arrived in the United States after earning an engineering degree from Istanbul Technical University. In 1989, he founded Transtech Engineers, Inc, which provides professional and technical expertise to governmental agencies, educational institutions and the private development sector.

Through his dedication and hard work, he was able to grow the business to a multi-million dollar enterprise. Notable projects over the years have included the Alhambra Civic Center Public Library and the Renovation of the Historic Santa Fe Depot Train Station in San Bernardino, California.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Ali is also known for his philanthropic contributions. He has participated in fundraising activities for the Tools for Education organization at California State University San Bernardino, as well as helped with the restoration work at Mission San Juan Capistrano. In 2005, Ali started a matching fund drive for local businesses for Hurricane Katrina victims, and personally matched other funds collected.

Ali is a volunteer teacher at California State University, where he sits on the board of the College of Education and the Tools for Education Project. He was instrumental in raising \$3 million for a new education building at the University.

He is also very active in the Southern California Hispanic community, engaging in many community organizations that provide support services to the Latino population. In 2006, the Embracing Latino Leadership Alliance honored Ali with the "Honorary Latino Citizen" award.

Finally, Ali is a founding Board Member of American Friends of Israel and Turkey, an organization dedicated to improve cooperation and understanding between American, Turkish, and Israeli citizens by supporting cultural, ethnic, and community events.

Throughout his extraordinary career as an engineer and community servant, Ali has always remained a dedicated family man. For the past 31 years, he has been married to his wife Sybil. Together, they have a daughter, who is currently following in her father's footsteps, pursuing a degree in civil engineering.

On behalf of myself, my wife, and my family, I congratulate Mr. Cayir for this tremendous honor. His contributions to his family and his community provide a wonderful example of service for all Americans to follow.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CLIFTON SPRINGS HOSPITAL & CLINIC AUXILIARY

HON. ERIC J. J. MASSA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. MASSA. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the service and achievements of the Clifton Springs Hospital & Clinic Auxiliary. The Hospital Auxiliary celebrated 50 years of community service on January 26, 2009. A reception to commemorate the first meeting of the Auxiliary was held on the same day. During their first year, the Auxiliary ambitiously initiated five projects that were used to better patient care: occupational therapy, hostesses to serve daily coffee/tea, magazine distribution, flower committee and Pinkie Puppets for Easter. The Hospital Auxiliary has since organized numerous fundraising events to pay for projects and equipment that would not have come to fruition otherwise. These important projects have been critical to increasing the comfort of Clifton Springs Hospital patients. For their tireless dedication to patient well-being, it is my pleasure to honor the Clifton Springs Hospital & Clinic Auxiliary.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL W. DAWSON

HON. MARK H. SCHAUER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. SCHAUER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor and congratulate Michael W. Dawson upon his recognition as Mason of the Year by the Battle Creek Lodge #12 Free and Accepted Masons of Michigan.

Since being raised a Master Mason in 2005, Mike has served as Senior Deacon, Senior Warden and is now serving his second year as Worshipful Master. He also has served on the Finance Committee and is active on the lodge's MDOT Adopt-A-Highway program.

Mike is appreciated by other area lodges for his many visits and willingness to help in their degree work. He is active in his church and serves as a Greeter and Usher. Mike also is a past President of the local Optimist Club where he has presented monthly awards to outstanding middle school students.

Mike and his wife, Elizabeth (Betty), are both retired from the Federal Government, DOD. It is with deep appreciation of the significance of this recognition that I commend Michael W. Dawson upon being named Mason of the Year and wish him well in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING CLAIN ROBERTS ON HIS 25TH ANNIVERSARY AS MINISTER OF MUSIC AT IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH IN PACE, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an

honor for me to rise today in recognition of Clain Roberts on his 25th Anniversary as Minister of Music at Immanuel Baptist Church in Pace, Florida.

For the past twenty-five years Clain Roberts has inspired the congregation at Immanuel Baptist Church with music. As the Minister of Music, Mr. Roberts leads all of the church's choirs as well as the orchestra and band. Mr. Roberts has also written many of the choruses in use by Immanuel Baptist including the church's Easter musical.

The choir program has grown dramatically under Mr. Roberts who created ensembles, quartets, the orchestra, and band. But Mr. Roberts is also an integral figure in the church because of his active participation in all other aspects of the church's doings. He takes senior adults on outings and visits congregants in the hospital. Because of the hard work and dedication put forth by Mr. Roberts over the past twenty-five years, he enjoys a special relationship with the members of Immanuel Baptist Church and is greatly loved by the fellowship.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Clain Roberts for twenty-five years of outstanding achievement and look forward to seeing what the next twenty-five will bring.

HONORING THE MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor the Marin Conservation League on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary Celebration. Founded by four visionary women, the League has worked to preserve and protect for public use many of the magnificent lands of Marin County.

As the Golden Gate Bridge was nearing completion in 1934 Caroline Livermore, Sepha Evers, Portia Forbes, and Helen Van Pelt were deeply concerned about unplanned growth a completed bridge would enable. Not wanting 'hot dog stands and billboards,' they met to discuss the future and agreed to raise money for the county to hire planning expert Hugh Pomeroy.

Intrepid women, not easily discouraged they raised \$2500 and Pomeroy developed the first countywide planning study. Learning the powers of political persuasion quickly, the women convinced the Board of Supervisors to adopt the plan which recommended the preservation of significant open spaces and guided the county's future growth. Almost at once, they swiftly proposed and persuaded the Supervisors to enact a county ordinance forbidding billboards which is in force to this day.

Caroline Livermore and her three co-founders, along with a growing organization, worked for more than 30 years to create public parks and secure for permanent preservation such Marin landmarks as Stinson Beach, Samuel P. Taylor Park, Drake's Bay, Tomales Bay State Park, and Richardson Bay Wildlife Refuge.

Never shying away from battle, MCL stopped plans for the commercialization of Angel Island when it was declared surplus by the federal government after WWII. The

League further fought to have it declared a state historic site and worked 14 more years to ensure the Park's master plan prevented commercial development, preserved historic resources, and protected wildlife habitat. Mt. Livermore, on Angel Island, was named to honor MCL co-founder Caroline Livermore.

Working with Audubon Canyon Ranch and the Nature Conservancy, MCL prevented the development of a recreational resort complex locally dubbed 'Newport Beach North.' By purchasing Kent Island and tidelands and donating the lands to Marin County as a park, Bolinas Lagoon was permanently preserved as a wildlife refuge.

Over the years Mann Conservation League has played many significant roles including helping to establish Point Reyes National Seashore and Golden Gate National Recreation Area. In the 1960's they led the fight against massive development in West Marin and stopped a proposed cross-county freeway. They advocated for agricultural zoning and in 1972, MCL helped launch the Marin County Open Space District.

During the 1970's and 80's, as land became more costly, MCL shifted its political priorities to work collaboratively towards the protection of environmental quality throughout the county. They campaigned vigorously to oppose offshore oil drilling, prevent logging on Bolinas Ridge, and worked tirelessly to defeat the peripheral canal, the environmentally costly state plan to divert Northern California water to the Southland.

Never resting on its laurels, MCL continues to work on protecting important natural features while developing environmental public policy, and working to implement that policy. Through careful research and evaluation, MCL prepares positions on government proposals, development projects and ballot propositions.

Madam Speaker, I have appreciated working with Marin Conservation League on many complicated issues and know they will conscientiously continue to monitor project proposals, track policies, and encourage government to adopt decisions that protect the environment. I congratulate the Marin Conservation League on its 75 years of extraordinary achievement!

RECOGNIZING EARTH DAY

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, as many of my colleagues know, today is Earth Day.

Earth Day is dedicated to raising awareness of how we can all be good stewards of our environment and leave our world better than we inherited it for future generations.

An important task to achieve this laudable objective is a comprehensive federal energy policy, one which puts all options on the table for debate and discussion. In other words, an "all of the above" approach.

Included in this energy policy will be exciting new technologies which incorporate more efficient, cleaner and safer ways to harness energy from the sun and our natural resources. There will also be an expansion of common-sense practices to conserve our resources.

One such method is recycling. We're familiar with recyclables, as more and more Ameri-

cans chose to participate in local recycling programs nationwide. Recycling results in a net reduction in ten major categories of air pollutants and eight major categories of water pollutants. To put this in perspective, a national recycling rate of 30 percent reduces greenhouse gas emissions as much as removing nearly 25 million cars from the road.

One vital contributor is the scrap recycling industry. In these challenging economic times, the scrap recycling industry employs more than 85,000 workers while providing high-quality products at lower costs, thus strengthening our economy.

Each year the scrap recycling industry keeps over 160 million tons of material out of landfills. Recycled aluminum saves our country 95 percent of the energy that would have been required to make new aluminum from ore. It also invests significant capital in high-tech, environmentally-designed manufacturing machinery that is used to sort, pack, transport, process, manufacture and ship materials to become new products.

As a member of the House Recycling Caucus, I believe Congress must continue to build our partnership with the scrap recycling industry. Last year's Recycling Investment Saves Energy tax credit has been well received, and I think we all agree that more can be done.

On this Earth Day I would like to thank the scrap recycling industry for the dedication to strengthening our economy in earth friendly way.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, April 21, I was absent for three rollcall votes. If I had been here, I would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted: "yes" on Rollcall Vote 193; "yes" on Rollcall Vote 194; and "yes" Rollcall Vote 195.

I would like this inserted into the RECORD in its appropriate place.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR ELWOOD L. MALICK

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an exemplary citizen, someone who has served the people of Spring Lake Heights and my state of New Jersey with distinction—Mayor Elwood L. Malick. He is being recognized as the 2009 Citizen of the Year by The Greater Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce for the exceptional work he has performed in his community.

Mayor Malick served as mayor of the Borough of Spring Lake Heights from 2004 to 2009. Located on the Jersey Shore, Spring Lake Heights is considered one of New Jersey's best places to live, with a vibrant and small beachside community. In his position, Mayor Malick has helped Spring Lake Heights continue to thrive as a vibrant town with acclaimed picturesque views and a tight-knit

community. Under his leadership, Spring Lake Heights has become a welcoming summer escape for thousands of visitors every year.

Mayor Malick has served on the governing body of Spring Lake Heights for 31 years, 26 as a member of the Borough Council, 13 as council president, and the last five as mayor. Beyond his dedicated service in government, Mayor Malick has served as a model school teacher for over 20 years. His dedication to education is commendable, though his commitment to community service extends outside the classroom. As a coach of Little League and high school basketball, Mayor Malick has touched the lives of young students in many meaningful ways.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Mayor Malick on his award, and I wish him the best as he opens a new chapter in his life. His example will continue to inspire us all and visitors will continue to enjoy their visits to Spring Lake Heights as a result of his accomplishments.

HONORING CHIEF MICHAEL G.
CURRY

HON. MARK H. SCHAUER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. SCHAUER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor a truly exemplary public servant, Chief Michael G. Curry, as April marks the 35th anniversary of his service as Napoleon Township Police Chief. Mike's unflagging dedication to the community, his extensive knowledge and experience in police work, and his effectiveness as a leader are keys to the long and continued success of the Napoleon Township Police Department.

Mike has always placed the welfare of children as his highest priority. That emphasis is reflected in a long list of local initiatives he has championed: child safety training, pedestrian and bike safety programs, SAVE (school active violence event) training for students and teachers, student finger printing, driving safety training, uniformed police officers taking children out to shop at Christmas, and numerous other initiatives.

He is especially resourceful in finding ways to maximize the benefit Napoleon residents receive from every local dollar spent on law enforcement—obtaining financial grants from many different external sources, leveraging resources through regional cooperation and consortiums, staffing the department with highly experienced officers who are willing to work part-time for Napoleon, and closely managing every expenditure large or small.

A recognized leader at the regional level, he is a past president of the Village and Township Police Association, past chair of the 911 Board, as well as current board member and chair of the curriculum committee for the Jackson and Lenawee County Training Consortium. Mike treats every resident issue, no matter how small, as important because every resident is important to him. Napoleon is a safer and more desirable community to live in, its children are better protected, and its residents are served by a highly effective Police Department thanks to Chief Curry.

How many lives have been saved, traffic accidents prevented, injuries avoided and crimes

deterred through his efforts may never be known, but we as a community know we owe him a debt of gratitude that can never be fully repaid.

MOLECULAR IMAGING WEEK

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge this week as Molecular Imaging Week. During this week, the molecular imaging and therapy community at hospitals, clinics, imaging centers, educational institutions, and corporations around the world, will educate Congress and the public about health policy issues related to molecular imaging and therapy.

Annually, more than 20 million men, women, and children need noninvasive molecular/nuclear medicine procedures. These safe, cost-effective procedures include: positron emission tomography (PET) scans to diagnose and monitor treatment of cancer, diagnose neurological disease such as Alzheimer's and stroke, cardiac stress tests to analyze heart function, bone scans for orthopedic injuries and follow-up for breast and prostate cancer patients, and lung scans for blood clots. Patients also undergo procedures to diagnose liver and gall bladder abnormal function and to diagnose and treat hyperthyroidism and thyroid cancer.

Molecular imaging and therapy procedures provide safe, painless, and cost-effective techniques to image the body and treat disease. These procedures are crucial in the early diagnosis of cancer, renal disease, cardiac disease, and Alzheimer's. Imaging procedures often identify abnormalities very early in the progress of a disease—long before many medical problems are apparent with other diagnostic tests. The techniques that are used in molecular imaging include radiotracer imaging/nuclear medicine, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), magnetic resonance spectroscopy (MRS), optical imaging, the PET scan, ultrasound and others.

Molecular imaging offers unique insights that allow a more targeted approach to evaluation and management of heart disease. It also plays a pivotal role in guiding the management of cancer: diagnosis, staging (extent and location), assessing therapeutic targets, monitoring therapy, and evaluating prognosis; and is playing an increasingly significant role in conditions such as: tumors, dementias (Alzheimer's and other), movement disorders, seizures disorders and psychiatric disorders.

Why is molecular imaging important? It is revolutionizing the practice of medicine and is critical to quality health care. Molecular imaging delivers on the promise of "personalized medicine"—it can provide patient-specific information that allows tailored treatment of disease. It can show a precise (molecular) level of detail that provides new information for diagnosis, for determining which kinds of therapy will and will not work for which patient, and for tracking the results of a specific therapy to see exactly how well it is working. It is also key to the development of pharmaceuticals and genetic therapy. Molecular therapy utilizes targeting molecules that deliver

the therapeutic agent directly to the site of interest, bypassing normal tissue that is responsible for the toxic side effects of many current therapies.

Based in Reston, Virginia, the Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) is an international scientific and professional organization founded in 1954 to promote the science, technology and practical application of nuclear medicine. Its 16,000 members are physicians, technologists and scientists specializing in the research and practice of molecular imaging and nuclear medicine. In 2005, SNM created the Molecular Imaging Center of Excellence, an organizational component within SNM, dedicated to all aspects of molecular imaging in the detection and management of disease. The primary focal areas of the Center are educational programs, professional and inter-society networking, and serving as a resource for development and implementation of SNM policy in this specialized area.

I applaud SNM and its members for their efforts to educate others on this major healthcare innovation during Molecular Imaging Week (April 19–25), and I urge my Colleagues to join me in supporting policies that will continue to keep our nation on the cutting edge of molecular imaging research.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, on March 23, 2009 I stayed at home due to an ongoing medical. As a result, I missed a number of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

Aye on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the Stan Lundine Post Office Building Designation. (Roll Call #145)

Aye on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the Lance Corporal Drew W. Weaver Post Office Building Designation. (Roll Call #146)

On March 24, 2009 I stayed at home due to an ongoing medical. As a result, I missed a number of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

Aye on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the Department of Homeland Security Component Privacy Act of 2009. (Roll Call #147)

No on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the Nuclear Forensics and Attribution Act (Roll Call #148)

Aye on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to Expressing support for designation of the week of March 1 through March 8, 2009, as School Social Work Week. (Roll Call #149)

On March 25, 2009 I stayed at home due to an ongoing medical. As a result, I missed a number of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

No on Ordering the Previous Question providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to H.R. 146, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act. (Roll Call #150)

No on Agreeing to the Resolution providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to H.R. 146, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act. (Roll Call #151)

Aye on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the Special Inspector General for the

Troubled Asset Relief Program Act. (Roll Call #152)

No on Motion to Concur in Senate Amendments to Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. (Roll Call #153)

Aye on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to Recognizing the 188th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American democracy. (Roll Call #154)

No on Motion to Table Raising a question of the privileges of the House regarding earmarks and campaign contributions. (Roll Call #155)

No on Agreeing to the Resolution, the Rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 1404, the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Act. (Roll Call #156)

On March 30, 2009 I stayed at home due to an ongoing medical. As a result, I missed a number of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

No on Motion to Table Raising a question of the privileges of the House. (Roll Call #163)

No on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended the Melanie Blocker Stokes MOTHERS Act. (Roll Call #164)

Aye on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended the Wakefield Act (Roll Call #165)

On March 31, 2009 I stayed at home due to an ongoing medical. As a result, I missed a number of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

No on Agreeing to the Resolution Providing for the consideration of the Senate amendments to H.R. 1388. (Roll Call #166)

Aye on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the Dextromethorphan Distribution Act. (Roll Call #167)

Aye on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended the Recognizing the 30th anniversary of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. (Roll Call #168)

No on Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendments Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act. (Roll Call #169)

No on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended the Vision Care for Kids Act of 2009. (Roll Call #170)

Aye on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the Health Insurance Restrictions and Limitations Clarification Act. (Roll Call #171)

No on Agreeing to the Resolution Providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress. (Roll Call #172)

No on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass to establish the Daniel Webster Congressional Clerkship Program. (Roll Call #173)

Aye on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the Capitol Police Administrative Technical Corrections Act of 2009. (Roll Call #174)

On April 1, 2009 I stayed at home due to an ongoing medical. As a result, I missed a number of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

No on Motion to Table the Flake Resolution. (Roll Call #175)

No on Agreeing to the Resolution Providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 85) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2009 and 2011 through 2014. (Roll Call #176)

No on Agreeing to the Resolution Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1664) to

amend the executive compensation provisions of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to prohibit unreasonable and excessive compensation and compensation not based on performance standards. (Roll Call #177)

No on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended the End Government Reimbursement of Excessive Executive Disbursements (End GREED) Act. (Roll Call #178)

Aye on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to Honoring the lives, and mourning the loss, of Sergeant Mark Dunakin, Sergeant Ervin Romans, Sergeant Daniel Sakai, and Officer John Hege, members of the Oakland Police Department in California who were brutally slain in the line of duty. (Roll Call #179)

Aye on Agreeing to the Bean of Illinois Amendment (Roll Call #180)

No on Agreeing to the Dahlkemper of Pennsylvania Amendment (Roll Call #181)

No on Passage to amend the executive compensation provisions of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to prohibit unreasonable and excessive compensation and compensation not based on performance standards. (Roll Call #182)

On April 2, 2009 I stayed at home due to an ongoing medical. As a result, I missed a number of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

No on Agreeing to the Resolution providing for the adjournment of the House and Senate. (Roll Call #183)

No on Agreeing to the Resolution providing for consideration of H. Con. Res. 85. (Roll Call #184)

Aye on Agreeing to the Buyer of Indiana Substitute Amendment. (Roll Call #185)

Aye on Motion to Recommit with Instructions the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. (Roll Call #186)

No on passage of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. (Roll Call #187)

No on Agreeing to the Woolsey of California Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute. (Roll Call #188)

Aye on Agreeing to the Jordan of Ohio Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute. (Roll Call #189)

No on Agreeing to the Lee of California Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute. (Roll Call #190)

Aye on Agreeing to the Ryan of Wisconsin Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute. (Roll Call #191)

No on Agreeing to the Resolution Congressional Budget for Fiscal Year 2010. (Roll Call #192)

THE FALLEN STARS MEMORIAL MURAL

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the efforts of the Herkimer Lions Club, Mohawk American Legion Post 25, Frankfort Kiwanis Club, Little Falls Rotary Club, and the Herkimer Polish Community Home in creating the Fallen Stars Memorial Mural to honor the memory of New York

State's fallen soldiers who gave their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Fallen Stars Memorial Mural was unveiled Memorial Day 2008 at Herkimer County Community College's Veterans Memorial Park, in Herkimer, NY. This memorial recognizes 229 brave men and women who selflessly and honorably made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and this Memorial Day, a second mural will be dedicated to further recognize their life and our loss.

I am proud to inform Congress and the nation that each fallen hero has been remembered by either a service project improving the quality of life in Central New York, or by a donation to a veterans' service organization. As a Member of Congress and as a New Yorker, I am forever grateful for the commitment and valor of our veterans, and I am touched by the spirit of their communities as those they left behind work to improve the quality of life for so many in the name of these heroes.

I would like to recognize the following individuals in particular for their dedication to this initiative: RJ Lenarcic, Chairman of Special Projects for the Herkimer Lions Club; Mimi Martin, spokeswoman for the Fallen Stars Tribute whose husband was tragically lost in Iraq in 2007; Kay Lenarcic; Kelly Brown; Devin McDonald; Dan Ferguson; Paul Scanlon; Elmer Heston; and Bob Critser.

Madam Speaker, it is with great privilege and honor that I recognize here today the Fallen Stars Memorial Mural and the individuals who have worked so tirelessly to make this memorial a reality, while paying respect to the American heroes we have lost too soon.

A TRIBUTE TO MISS USA 2009
KRISTEN DALTON

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Miss North Carolina USA Kristen Dalton for winning the title of Miss USA 2009 on April 19, 2009.

An aspiring motivational speaker and entertainer from Wilmington, North Carolina, Miss Dalton competed against 49 other beauty queens to win the prestigious title of Miss USA 2009, in addition to receiving the highest scores for the swimsuit and evening gown competition. She will represent the United States of America in the Miss Universe 2009 pageant in August 2009.

A 22-year-old graduate of East Carolina University with a degree in Psychology and Spanish, Miss Dalton's duties as Miss USA will enable her to continue working with the Miss Universe organization's charitable alliances including Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the USO, Special Olympics, the American Cancer Society and speaking to youth audiences targeting issues such as peer pressure and perseverance. She will be afforded a year's use of a New York apartment, a public relations team, a two-year scholarship at the New York Film Academy and a salary to carry out her duties and continue the Miss USA focus on charity.

A singer and dancer who credits her strong religious faith and family for her success, Miss Dalton comes from a long line of pageant winners. Her mother, Jennie Dalton served as

Miss North Carolina USA in 1982, and her sister, Julia Dalton, served as Miss North Carolina Teen USA in 2008 and as second runner-up in the Miss Teen USA pageant.

Madam Speaker, dedicated service to others combined with dynamic leadership has been the embodiment of Miss Dalton's life and qualities that the Miss USA pageant upholds in selecting its winners. May we all wish Miss Dalton the very best in her quest for the Miss Universe title, in addition to using her selflessness, tenacity and integrity as a beacon of direction, and example of dedication, and a source of inspiration. Indeed, may God bless Miss Dalton and her time serving our country as Miss USA 2009.

HONORING SSGT. RICHARD
HOWARD HEMENWAY

HON. MARK H. SCHAUER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. SCHAUER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor SSGT. Richard Howard Hemenway, Jr. of the 110th Fighter Wing Chaplain's Office in Battle Creek, Michigan on the occasion of his retirement. SSGT. Hemenway has been a dedicated member of the armed forces for 21 years, five of which were active duty, including four tours to the Middle East. He was commended twice for this service, among many other honors. In October of 2000, SSGT. Hemenway was presented the Leadership Award by his peers for Outstanding Academic and Leadership Performance Air Force Sergeants Association Cereal City Chapter 774. In 2005, SSGT. Hemenway was named Base Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year. He has done all of this as a loving husband to his wife, Kathy, and dedicated father to his children. SSGT. Richard Howard Hemenway, Jr. is a model of patriotism and well deserves our respect and appreciation for his many years of dedication and distinguished service.

ON THE PASSING OF AMBASSADOR
SARATA OTTRA ZIRIGNON-TOURE

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I report to the House of Representatives that Cote d'Ivoire's roving Ambassador Sarata Ottra Zirignon-Toure suddenly passed away on April 9, 2009. I have had the distinct pleasure of working with Ambassador Zirignon-Toure on the establishing the Congressional Caucus on Cote d'Ivoire. She proved instrumental in the establishment of the Caucus, which focuses on issues in West Africa, specifically the pending elections and peace efforts in Cote d'Ivoire.

For decades Ambassador Zirignon-Toure has been at the forefront of Cote d'Ivoire's political landscape—as a freedom fighter, advocate for democracy and leader in the women's movement. Her commitment landed her in jail in 1970 with a group of fellow activists who are now key members of government, includ-

ing President Laurent Gbagbo. When their party, the Ivorian Popular Front, was recognized as the official opposition in 1990, she was named to the shadow cabinet, eventually receiving the foreign affairs portfolio.

A linguist, teacher and child psychologist by training, Ambassador Zirignon-Toure served President Gbagbo as deputy chief of staff since his election in 2000. She served as a roving envoy and troubleshooter with a special focus on relations with the United States. Her academic credentials include degrees and diplomas earned in the United Kingdom and Cote d'Ivoire. She worked for several years as a translator in New York and for the U.S. Foreign Broadcasting Information Service at the embassy in Abidjan.

Her intellect and leadership is most certainly a loss to Cote d'Ivoire and the United States. She will be remembered for her powerful advocacy in the United States on behalf of all Ivorian people.

On behalf of the Congressional Caucus on Cote d'Ivoire, I offer my sincere condolences to Ambassador Zirignon-Toure's family, President Gbagbo and the people of Cote d'Ivoire.

A TRIBUTE TO RICHARD L.
TALBOTT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleague Congresswoman ELLEN O. TAUSCHER, to recognize Richard L. Talbott, Regional Manager for the Readjustment Counseling Service, Pacific Western Region within the Department of Veterans Affairs, and congratulate him as he approaches his retirement this June and thank him for his outstanding service to our nation's military veterans.

Dick served our country with honor as a member of the US Army, 9th Infantry Division and from 1968 to 1969 fought in Vietnam. Following his release from active duty, Dick began his VA career. He first joined the San Diego VA Medical Center, Psychology Department and in 1988 he became a counselor at the Escondido Vet Center. Dick was soon promoted to the position of Team Leader, a position he held from 1990 through 1993. It was during this period that Dick also served as the Executive Director and CEO of the Vietnam Veterans of San Diego (VUSD), and co-authored a "how to" manual on Stand Down for homeless veterans. It was largely due to Dick's tireless efforts and his keen sense of purpose that the program was deemed a huge success, as he more than doubled the residential services capacity for homeless veterans and was the primary negotiator in securing nearly \$2 million for expanded homeless veteran services related to the base closure process in San Diego. The Stand Down as developed in San Diego, has been replicated by agencies across our country and is considered by experts in the field, a stellar program for providing a wide range of services to our homeless and at risk veterans.

It was at this time that Dick also took on the responsibilities of Regional Manager for the Readjustment Counseling Service. Since assuming this position, he has been responsible

for the oversight and operation of thirty-two highly successful Vet Centers throughout California, Hawaii, Oregon, and the Territory of Guam.

Madam Speaker, we invite our colleagues to join us in also thanking Dick's wife Maureen, his daughter Megan and son Michael for the sacrifices they have undoubtedly made during the span of his career. We join today with his family, colleagues, friends, and most importantly with the men and women of our veteran communities across the nation who have benefited most from his work, in recognizing, celebrating and sincerely thanking Richard L. Talbott for a remarkable career.

IN RECOGNITION OF EVA
PLASCENCIA

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished service of Eva Plascencia. After 30 years with the Internal Revenue Service, she continues to dedicate herself to her career of service.

Eva was born in Clovis, California on September 25, 1956 to Roy Woodley and Juanita Tovar. She graduated from James Logan High School in Union City, California in 1974. In 1979, she married Robert T. Plascencia and their marriage blessed them with three daughters. She is most proud of the fact that all of her children have earned college degrees. Personally, Eva enjoys arts and crafts, sewing and spending time with her grandson Joshua Diego Ojeda.

Mrs. Plascencia began her career with the Internal Revenue Service on January 17, 1978 as a Career Conditional Appointment Clerk—GS03. Since then Eva has worked hard to advance into many different positions and levels within the IRS. Her commitment to learning new policies, honing her skills, and taking on new challenges provided her the opportunity to progress on a yearly basis within the Service. Her most recent positions where in 1998 when she was promoted into Accounting and in 2006 when she moved into the Collections department as a GS8.

Throughout her career at the Internal Revenue Service, Mrs. Eva Plascencia is well known for her hard work ethic and determination. As she celebrates her 30 years of service, I wish her continued success and good luck in all her future endeavors.

HONORING SCHULER'S
RESTAURANT AND PUB

HON. MARK H. SCHAUER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. SCHAUER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Schuler's Restaurant & Pub in Marshall, Michigan as they celebrate 100 years of dedicated service. Schuler's was opened in 1909 by Albert Schuler, Sr. and is a family-owned restaurant. Four generations of Schuler's have built the family reputation and have helped to maintain traditions that grow

out of good, honest work and a love of food, people, and the community. Along the way, each generation has shown a flair for imagination and innovation in the hospitality and food industry. In an era of many constant challenges that face our daily lives, the tireless efforts of establishments like Schuler's help to make our community, state and country an outstanding place to live and work. It is with deep appreciation of the significance of this milestone that I commend Schuler's Restaurant & Pub as they celebrate 100 years of exemplary service to the Marshall community and the State of Michigan.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MIRIAM
WITHERSPOON

HON. ARTUR DAVIS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise to extend my condolences to the family of Miriam Witherspoon, a city council member whose death on April 21 is being mourned by the entire city of Birmingham, Alabama. Ms. Witherspoon was a note of grace in Birmingham politics: if you knew her, you had to appreciate that she was genuinely kind and generous in a profession known more for its sharp edges.

Miriam was the kind of individual who excelled at whatever she did. Academically, that meant graduating with high honors from Alabama A&M, and second in her class at Miles Law School. Professionally, it meant crafting a career as one of the leading experts on elder law in the state of Alabama. Politically, it meant forging a political career in her adopted community of Birmingham on her own, independent terms. She lost her first council race, but came back so strong that in 2005, she won easily, the only non-incumbent to win outright without a runoff. Miriam won the confidence of her peers so quickly that in her first days, they elected her president pro tempore of the council.

Miriam Witherspoon happened to have a disability. An automobile accident twenty-one years ago ruined her spinal cord. Her spirit only grew stronger. When she entered public life, disabled citizens in Birmingham finally had their voice. Miriam pushed Birmingham and its city buildings to live up to the obligations of the Americans with Disabilities Act. When told that following the law cost money, her answer was, in effect, "we are Americans by way of Birmingham, Alabama, and we belong here too". Her passion reminded us that Birmingham of all places has no business keeping people out.

She goes home to rest now, having fought the good fight. Her legacy will be the people she inspired, who used to have an excuse for why they couldn't compete or excel. That is, they had an excuse until the moment they met Miriam Witherspoon, and felt the spirit that was standing upright around her wheelchair.

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, the Los Angeles basin holds one of the greatest concentrations of humanity in the world. People have come from all over the Earth to live there—when one walks down a street in Glendale or Alhambra one can hear a language from ten thousand miles away on one block and read signs in a vastly different language on the next. But if you look up a little higher, above the signs and above the buildings, you'll see gray-green mountains looking down on it all. In my district, we're right up against the Verdugo, Santa Monica and San Gabriel Mountains, and they surprise you all the time, appearing at street corners from behind the buildings, playing hide-and-seek with intervening hills and highways.

Though few of my constituents live up there, I try to get up into the hills as often as I can, and I'm often surprised by how many of my neighbors I run into on the trail. I think that, like me, they wander in the chaparral and oak forests to get away for a while, and find some perspective in the process. Among the families, teenagers and retirees I pass, I see all of the cultures I know from the streets of my district, all enjoying the fact that they can find some peace and quiet just a few minutes away from one of the largest cities in the world.

Our green spaces play an irreplaceable role in our communities, and on this Earth Day, I would like to celebrate them. This is a day to think globally, but it is also a day to act locally, by taking your family to the park and exploring all that you find there. In the words of John Muir, "When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world."

A TRIBUTE TO RON SAILOR

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the dedication, service and commitment of Ron Sailor to the veterans of Maine.

Ron was born in Orono, Maine, and is a graduate of George Stevens Academy in Blue Hill. He attended Husson College and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in accounting in 1968. He then briefly worked for Great Northern Paper Company and the Internal Revenue Service.

Ron served 32 years in the Maine Air National Guard, attaining the rank of Colonel. He served in a number of roles, including Chief of Staff to the Adjutant General, Public Affairs Officer, and Director of Operations and Training.

Like so many veterans across our nation, Ron's service did not end when he took off his uniform. Following his Maine Air National Guard service, Ron became active in the American Legion, serving as Orono Post 84 Commander, the Penobscot County Vice

Commander and the Department of Maine Commander.

For the past 10 years, Ron has served as the Adjutant for the Department of Maine. Throughout his service to the American Legion, he has worked tirelessly on behalf of all the Maine legionnaires to ensure they receive the rights and benefits they have earned from their service.

Maine veterans, both now and for generations to come, will benefit because of Ron's efforts. Through his hard work and dedication, Ron has left a lasting legacy and brought honor and credit to himself, his family, his community, the American Legion and his nation. I have valued his candor, his guidance and his friendship, and I extend my sincere thank you to him for his many years of service on behalf of the veterans of Maine.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILD
CARE AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2009

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, the rising cost of child care is squeezing working families in these difficult economic times, and the amount of assistance the federal government currently provides to ease the burden of these expenses is inadequate. To address this issue, today I am introducing the Child Care Affordability Act.

A substantial gap exists between what high-quality early care and education programs cost and what most families can afford to pay. The average cost of full-time care for one child in a child care center is about \$13,000 per year in urban areas—nearly one quarter of the typical family's income. The amount of assistance that the typical family can receive from the current federal credit for child care expenses is limited to \$600 for one child and \$1,200 for two children. The Child Care Affordability Act helps families to fill that gap so that more of America's children will experience high-quality child care and early education settings.

The Child Care Affordability Act of 2009 acts on two fronts. First, it creates a new tax deduction for child and dependent care expenses. Much of a so-called "martini lunch" is currently a tax-deductible business expense, while child care is not. But for the typical family, child care is a very necessary expense for being able to work. Second, the bill expands the current credit for child and dependent care expenses so that it provides a more meaningful level of assistance to families. Families would be able to choose either the deduction or the credit, making the choice that gives them the biggest tax break. A family with median income of \$56,788 and two children could receive as much as \$5,200 in tax assistance.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this initiative to ease the burden on working families while making an essential investment in the future prosperity of our country.

HONORING JACOB TANENBAUM

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jacob Tanenbaum, an outstanding constituent and educator from the 17th Congressional District of New York, for his exemplary efforts in bringing real scientific research to the classroom.

Jacob Tanenbaum, an elementary school teacher at the South Orangetown schools in Rockland County, New York, was chosen by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Teacher at Sea Program to participate in a two-week research cruise in the North Atlantic this past fall to study Atlantic fisheries while aboard NOAA Ship Henry B. Bigelow.

Embarking from Newport, Rhode Island, Mr. Tanenbaum's research cruise followed a track off the United States' northeastern coast. Mr. Tanenbaum not only researched fisheries, but also wrote a daily blog, took photographs, interviewed scientists, and engaged in dialogue with his students, fellow teachers, and the general public. Mr. Tanenbaum became an integral part of the research team and ship's crew and established relationships that will give him and his colleagues access to scientific resources for many years to come. With his at-sea experience, Mr. Tanenbaum has been able to enrich his curriculum and excite his students about science.

In one of his logs, Mr. Tanenbaum wrote, "Through NOAA's Teacher at Sea Program, students are not just learning about exciting research projects at sea, they are witnesses to them, and on some level, participants in them. The Teacher at Sea program is about something far more important than test scores and text books. It is about inspiration and excitement. Inspiring learning and creating excitement about learning are not just simple hoped-for extras in an educational setting—they are the most essential parts of a culture of learning."

I congratulate, Mr. Tanenbaum on his spirit of adventure in the name of education, his willingness to try new things, and his ability to bring this experience back into the classroom. NOAA's Teacher at Sea program has afforded Mr. Tanenbaum an unparalleled opportunity to provide his students with hands-on scientific education, grounded in his unique experience. The lessons he learned on the Bigelow will stay with Mr. Tanenbaum for the rest of his teaching career, acting as a source from which he will always be able to draw inspiration and creativity.

HONORING PATRICK GARRETT

HON. MARK H. SCHAUER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. SCHAUER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Patrick Garrett, President and Chief Executive Officer of Battle Creek Health System (BCHS) as he transitions into a new executive role as Vice President of the Operations Performance Leadership Department with Trinity Health.

Pat has served as President and CEO of Battle Creek Health System (BCHS) since July of 1999. His legacy includes strong community involvement, a growing partnership with medical staff and marked improvements in finances, quality, and service.

During Pat's tenure, BCHS was honored for outstanding clinical outcomes by HealthGrades, the nation's leading independent health care ratings company and the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer. It was named one of the nation's leaders in development of an electronic medical record by Hospitals & Health Networks magazine.

BCHS has also been recognized for five consecutive years as one of West Michigan's "Best and Brightest Places to Work" by Michigan Business & Professional Association. For the past nine years, Patrick has earned both the respect and admiration of medical staff, associates, and community members for his skillful and honest leadership. Patrick is a model of patriotism and well deserves our respect and appreciation for his many years of dedication and distinguished service.

HONORING THE 2009 CLASS 5A GIRLS SOCCER STATE CHAMPIONS COPPELL HIGH SCHOOL COWGIRLS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker. I rise today to recognize the exceptional achievement of the Coppell High School girls soccer team: 2009 Class 5A State Champions of Texas. The Coppell Cowgirls completed their historic title run with a victory over the nation's previously top-ranked team and a dramatic 3-2 victory over The Woodlands in the state championship game.

Winning a state title is a remarkable accomplishment. It takes many crucial components working together to achieve this level of success. The 2009 Class 5A Girls Soccer State Champions of Texas, the Coppell High School Cowgirls, include: Kailey Hicks; Tannah Deloach; Katie Bass; Laura Sadler (Captain); Lauren Johnson; Alyssa Diggs (Captain); Sydney Frazier (Captain); Spayne Avant; Dominique Dinka; Chioma Ubogagu; Brittany Redus; Amina Radonicic; Allison Guderian; Danielle Herubin; Kristen Hart; Christina Baker; Erin Barlow; Haley Powers; Rebekah Henderson; Rachel Henderson; Cara Manning (Captain); Tori Van Riper; Whitney Borstad; Lauren Scott; Maddie Peter; Jessica Berdan; Bear Bass; Lindsey Meyer; Arielle Ghoston (manager); Arresha Robinson; Yvette Carson; Kristen Hester (trainers); Michelle Mcalister; Justin Heller; Tito Schwabe (assistant coaches); John Crawford (athletic director); Sherri Hankins (athletic coordinator); and the head coach, Chris Stricker. Educators, teachers, school officials, families and friends also deserve significant praise for their efforts in supporting the Cowgirls.

The state title earned by the Cowgirls has brought great pride to the school and community. On behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to the entire team and coaching staff and best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TEMECULA POST OFFICE

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, today marks the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Temecula Post Office. In 1859, at its establishment, it became only one of seven post offices in California south of the Tehachapi Mountains.

John Butterfield, an experienced stagecoach company owner was awarded a contract to deliver mail between St. Louis, Missouri and San Francisco, California. There was a time consideration in the contract requiring that each trip be completed in 25 days. On September 16, 1858, Mr. Butterfield began the first east to west journey and it was completed in 23 days and 23 hours.

Six months after the passage of the first Butterfield Stage through Temecula, U.S. President James Buchanan appointed Louis A. Rouen as the first Temecula Postmaster on April 22, 1859. Rouen served at the Magee store, near what is now Margarita Road and the Temecula Parkway. This was the first of the fourteen post office sites that have been used in the collection and distribution of Temecula's mail; the post office location changed frequently during the ensuing decades. It was located in several places including private residences, the Wolf Store, the Machado Stores, the train station, the Palomar and the Temecula Hotels, Hall's Café, Security Pacific Bank and the two sites operating today.

During its journey to and from Temecula, mail may have been in ships, planes, 18 wheelers, golf carts and many other conveyances including the last mule train delivery used in the United States. Mail Service in Temecula has been a significant part of the community for a century and a half. It is sometimes little appreciated except by those who serve. Following September 11, 2001 the Postal Service ran a series of reminders in magazines, papers and on television that summarize what they do for the citizens of Temecula and our Nation.

"We are mothers and fathers. And sons and daughters who every day go about our lives with duty, honor and pride. And neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night, nor winds of change, nor a nation challenged, will stay us from our appointed rounds. Ever."

Still standing today, the Temecula Post Office is a monument to the faithful and dedicated work of the men and women who have served the community for 150 years.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MSU RECEIVING THE AFRICA-U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE PLANING GRANT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Michigan State University in

East Lansing, Michigan. Continuing their proud history of service MSU recently won a United States Agency for International Development and the Higher Education Development Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative Planning Grant Competition.

Nearly 300 applications were submitted for capacity building partnerships between U.S. colleges and universities and higher education institutions in Sub-Saharan African nations. Michigan State University is one of 40 winners that will each receive a planning grant of \$50,000.

This initiative was proposed during the Higher Education Summit for Global Development and subsequent regional summits held in Rwanda last year. It is the beginning of an ongoing campaign to assist higher education institutions in Africa.

In total, the grants will help to develop plans to address regional and national economic development priorities in Africa such as engineering, health, agriculture, environment and natural resources, science and technology, education and teacher training/preparation, and business, management and economics.

Michigan State University will partner with the University of Malawi to address critical 21st century environment and development challenges. Their project is titled "Ecosystem Services: Linking Science to Action, in Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Michigan State University on their receipt of this important grant. They are truly deserving our respect and admiration.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT B. CATELL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Robert B. Catell, a visionary leader in our community and an inspiration to all of New York.

Robert B. Catell was raised and educated in New York City, having earned both his Bachelor's and his Master's degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the City College of New York. A Registered Professional Engineer, Mr. Catell also attended Columbia University's Executive Development Program and the Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School.

Robert B. Catell began his career in New York's energy industry in 1958 at Brooklyn Union Gas. As the corporation evolved into the nation's fifth-largest natural gas distributor, Keyspan, Mr. Catell established himself as a leader for the corporation, guiding it through multiple transitions in a growing, competitive industry.

Robert B. Catell is now the Chairman of National Grid, U.S. following the acquisition by National Grid of Keyspan Corporation. He is also Chairman of Northeast Gas Markets, of Alberta Northeast Gas Ltd., and a member of the Board of Directors of KEYERA Energy Management Ltd.

Robert B. Catell is also a leader in securing New York's economic, educational, and cultural future. He co-chairs the Board of the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership and chairs the Long Island Association. He also serves

as member of the Board of Directors/Trustees for many local organizations, including the Business Council of New York State, the Partnership for New York City, the Energy Association of New York State, the City College of New York 21st Century Foundation, and the New York City Police Foundation.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Robert B. Catell, a dynamic community leader for all of New York.

CONGRATULATING SARAH BAIRD— 2009 ARIZONA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sarah Baird on being honored as the 2009 Arizona Teacher of the Year. Sarah is a math teacher at Kyrene de las Lomas and Kyrene del Milenio elementary schools in Phoenix, Arizona where she teaches in nearly 60 classrooms at the two schools, with kids ranging from kindergarten through fifth grade.

Sarah started down her chosen path when she drove to Northern Arizona University and became the first person in her family to attend college. She graduated in 2½ years with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and later went on to receive a master's degree in early child education, also from NAU.

For Sarah, teaching is all about helping students find the same potential that a teacher once helped her find in herself, and she works tirelessly to ensure that her students have the opportunity to fulfill their full potential. Besides instructing math, Sarah also educates her fellow teachers in ways to make their lessons more easily understood by students.

The Arizona Teacher of the Year program is a statewide program that spotlights the many contributions of Arizona's teachers. The program annually recognizes exceptionally skilled and dedicated teachers in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade public schools. Those who are honored, like Sarah, play an active and useful role in their communities as well as their schools. They also show an exceptional ability to help their students achieve. I know she will represent our state well in the National Teacher of the Year Program.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Sarah Baird on being honored as the 2009 Arizona Teacher of the Year. Her incredible dedication to her students and her community should be an inspiration to us all.

IN HONOR OF THE DELAWARE AUTISM PROGRAM

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Delaware Autism Program as it celebrates its 30th anniversary in the State of Delaware. The Delaware Autism Program currently serves approximately 700 students

statewide in six approved centers and operates at more than 30 community-based sites with the support of more than 400 staff members.

Designed in 1978 through the collaboration of state legislators and parents of children with autism, the Delaware Autism Program (DAP) offers valuable services to both students and families. DAP seeks, in its core components, to provide access to respite for parents of children with autism, residential support through the public school system, and community and vocational training and support. Along with the dedication to providing students with the best educational services in the nation, these have established DAP as a significant and invaluable resource for Delaware's Autism community.

Since its inception, DAP has been a leader in autism education. The development of the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), an educational tool now recognized worldwide for its initiation component of communication, was pioneered at DAP in 1985. The Brennen School in Newark, along with other DAP sites, has proven itself a leader in the implementation of evidence-based best practices in education for students with autism, including Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) interventions. Over the past 30 years, DAP has continued to grow and expand; in the past decade alone, the number of school districts hosting the program and the number of students and staff have doubled. With a continuum of educational settings ranging from separate schools, to community-based preschools, to inclusive settings in general education classrooms, the Delaware Autism Program has done and continues to do our great state of Delaware an immeasurable service.

On this 30th Anniversary, I would like to recognize the unequalled devotion of the Delaware Autism Program staff and the ongoing support of their parent community and host districts. Since 1978, DAP staff have given their time, their energy, and their hearts in the support and education of students and their families. I commend the Delaware Autism Program for its tireless dedication and I look forward to its continued success in serving this special group of students and their families.

HONORING MR. CHARLES Q. "C.Q." SMITH

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the efforts of Mr. Charles Q. "C.Q." Smith. Mr. Smith has devoted a lifetime to the development and nurturing of young citizens and future leaders, as the scoutmaster of Scout Troop 127.

CQ Smith entered the world of Cub Scouting in 1948 at the age of 9, joining Cub Scout Pack 127. At the age of 11, he crossed over to Boy Scouting with Troop 127, and by age 13 he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout with one Eagle Palm. His commitment to attaining this rank in such a short period of time is a tribute to his determined passion to achieve and succeed in life.

Following his graduation from Lafayette College in 1961 with the highest honors and a

long list of academic and social accomplishments, Mr. Smith completed a graduate degree from the University of Chicago in 1963. This was followed immediately by active military service in Germany where he formed Boy Scout Troop 444, which soon became the largest and most active Scout Troop in the Transatlantic Council.

For 55 years of his adult life, Charles, has been an inspiration to hundreds of young men who have come to know and revere him as a caring and motivating mentor. He has instilled in each of them traits of character, citizenship, fitness of mind and body, and a full appreciation for the outdoors.

Serving with distinction as Scoutmaster for Troop 127 for 25 of its 90 years, Mr. Smith has led his Troop to all of the high adventure destinations that Scouting has to offer, as well as participating in National and World Jamborees. He has also provided his scouts with experiences in some of the finest natural environments in this region and across the World.

Through all of his endeavors, Mr. Smith's accomplishments, be they educational, spiritual, or professional, stand as models for all Scouts and Scouters to admire. For these reasons I congratulate Charles Q "C.Q." Smith for all that he has done to better our community and nation as a whole.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL FRED
WOMACK USAF (RET.)

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, Major General Fred Womack USAF (Ret.) of Loudon County, Tennessee has been inducted into the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame. He is one of the finest members of the Armed Forces I know, and I cannot think of anyone who deserves this honor more.

As a boy, the future Major General loved to build model airplanes and looked skyward with awe and envy as military planes flew in formation overhead. He vowed to one day be one of those pilots. But flying did not come easy. Like every great American story, his dream was realized only after overcoming many obstacles which would have led most men to simply give up.

Because he needed a degree to get into the U.S. Air Force pilot training program, Major General Womack enlisted in the Air National Guard while simultaneously pursuing a college degree. After earning a degree in business, Major General Womack applied for the U.S. Air Force pilot training program; unfortunately, he failed several times to make the minimum weight requirement. His dream was slipping away.

As fate would have it, the Berlin Air Lift called him to service in Germany. While overseas, he hired a pilot instructor and took his first flying lesson.

When he returned from Germany, Major General Womack gained enough weight for acceptance into the U.S. Air Force pilot training program, but another obstacle stood in his way. He was now past the 26-year-old cutoff age for acceptance. It was only through the foresight of Major General/Commander Robert Akin—who issued him a waiver—that Major

General Womack finally realized his dream of attending the U.S. Air Force pilot training program.

His love of flight led him to two simultaneous careers, both of which he took to the pinnacle of success.

As an airline pilot for Piedmont Airlines, he went from flying a Martin 404 prop plane to Boeing 767s. He eventually became the airline's Flight Operations and Flying Safety Director and was Chairman of the Air Transport Association Flight Integration Committee. He also served as the project manager for the Traffic Alert Collision Avoidance System for the entire airline industry, technology which is still in use today and that has undoubtedly saved many lives.

While achieving success as a civilian pilot, Major General Womack was also making a name for himself in the Tennessee Air National Guard. As Commander of the 134th Consolidated Maintenance Squadron, he achieved an unparalleled safety record. His diligence and devotion to safety as a pilot and commander led him to eventually become the Commander of the Tennessee Air National Guard.

Major General Womack is an example of the opportunities available only in America and a testimony to commitment, patience, and sacrifice. Throughout his careers, Major General Womack says he never felt like he worked a day. We should all be that lucky.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to call the accomplishments of Major General Fred Womack and his induction into the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

CONGRATULATING ELEANOR
KERRIGAN, THE 2009 WOMAN OF
THE YEAR OF THE LACKAWANNA
COUNTY FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Eleanor Kerrigan, of Luzerne Street in Scranton, Pennsylvania, upon the occasion of being named as 2009 Woman of the Year by the Lackawanna County Federation of Democratic Women.

Ms. Kerrigan has distinguished herself for many years as a tireless advocate for her family, her church, several charitable organizations and for Democratic candidates for public office.

A daughter of the late Carmel McPhillips and Jerome McDonald, Ms. Kerrigan has five sisters, Carmel Cunningham, Patricia Ward, Madelon Williams, Barbara Harding and Catherine Flynn; one brother, Michael McDonald, and 19 nieces and nephews.

She is currently employed as Lackawanna County Deputy Recorder of Deeds. Previously, she worked for the Lackawanna County Bureau of Elections and the Pennsylvania Bureau of Revenue, both in Scranton. She also worked for the Pennsylvania Bureau of Elections in Harrisburg during the administration of the late Gov. Robert P. Casey.

Ms. Kerrigan is a member and past president of the Holy Cross Church Men's and Women's Society in West Scranton where she was instrumental in raising funds for church renovation projects.

For more than 30 years, she has been a member at St. Joseph's Center in Dunmore, which is devoted to helping those who are mentally and physically challenged. She also served as president of the St. Joseph's Center for two years and is a member of the St. Joseph's Center Auxiliary Board.

For nearly 40 years, Ms. Kerrigan has been highly active with the Scranton City and Lackawanna County Democrat organizations. For several years, she served as Chairwoman of the Scranton Democrats and she is currently the Treasurer of the Lackawanna County Democrats.

Ms. Kerrigan is a member of the Society of Irish Women, an organization that fosters education and cultural awareness of those with Irish heritage.

For many years, she has been a devoted member of the Race for the Cure Committee, an organization dedicated to eradicating the scourge of cancer.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Eleanor Kerrigan on this auspicious occasion. Her selfless service to so many worthy causes is an inspiration to others and has earned her widespread respect and admiration. Her selection as Woman of the Year by the Lackawanna County Federation of Democratic Women is entirely fitting and well deserved.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BOTTLE
RECYCLING CLIMATE PROTECTION
ACT OF 2009

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, today, on Earth Day, I am re-introducing the Bottle Recycling Climate Protection Act of 2009, which would create a national beverage container recycling program. This national Bottle Bill would build on the success of existing state bottle laws and promote recycling by offering a 5 cent deposit on beverage containers, including plastic water bottles that have become more prevalent in recent years. Recycling these products saves energy and money, cuts global warming pollution, and reduces landfill waste.

Twenty-seven years ago, my state of Massachusetts became one of the first states to adopt a state bottle law in order to encourage the recycling of cans and bottles. Since its inception, Massachusetts' bottle law has been a tremendous success. In 2006, over 2 billion beverage containers were sold in Massachusetts and nearly 70 percent of them were recycled rather than littered or incinerated.

Recycling and reusing these bottles not only reduces the amount of trash that ends up in our landfills, it also dramatically reduces the amount of global warming pollution that ends up in our atmosphere. American consumers purchase nearly 600 million beverage bottles and cans, on average, every day. Roughly 385 million of them are landfilled, incinerated or littered. Nine of ten plastic water bottles end

up as garbage or litter where they take up to 1,000 years to biodegrade. A national bottle bill will help us turn this trend around.

A national bottle recycling program would have profound economic benefits from energy savings for American businesses. The energy use associated with manufacturing these containers from virgin materials is far greater than the cost of using recycled materials. In fact, making an aluminum can from recycled materials requires 95 percent less energy than to make it from scratch.

I am proud to introduce this important bill today on Earth Day. Passing this bill would send a clean energy message in a bottle to American consumers and businesses. A national Bottle Bill can help America quench its thirst for imported oil and will allow us to have carbon dioxide in our fizzy drinks, while cutting down on heat-trapping carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

IN MEMORY OF MEGAN MILLER

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the remarkable life of Megan Miller. I was deeply saddened to learn of her passing and believe her courage in the face of adversity is something special that deserves recognition today on the floor of the people's House.

Megan Nichole Miller was born on November 26, 2000, to her loving parents, Scott and Suzanne Miller of Jamestown, Indiana. Megan attended Granville Wells Elementary School and was a member of New Brunswick Church of Christ.

Though Megan faced remarkable challenges throughout her brief time with us, she will be remembered by her friends and family for the spirit with which she lived and the faith that guided her life. Megan's passion for life brightened the world for everyone around her. Instead of focusing on her physical difficulties, she used her disabilities to teach others the importance of accepting all people—no matter what their circumstances. It is fitting that Megan loved music, especially hymns about God and heaven, where I am certain she is now.

None were more blessed by Megan than her family. She shared a special bond and deep love with her sister Hannah. Megan's parents are forever blessed by their remarkable daughters, and have gained a greater understanding of the worth that we all carry in the eyes of God.

Though Megan sadly has passed away, those who knew her will continue to benefit from the inspiring example that she set throughout her life. I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to the doctors and nurses who gave Megan the best possible care and my deepest condolences to Scott, Suzanne, and Hannah.

GEORGE MASON AWARDED USAID GRANT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with our colleagues a recent announcement from USAID indicating that Virginia's George Mason University was one of 40 paired winners of the highly competitive Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative Planning Grant Competition.

George Mason will partner with the University of Sierra Leone to develop a four-campus community college system for the nation. The development of this sort of higher education is critical to Africa's future development, particularly in nations like Sierra Leone, which not too many years ago had been ravaged by civil war.

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY AWARDED USAID-FUNDED GRANT IN AFRICA-U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE GRANT COMPETITION

WASHINGTON, DC—The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Higher Education for Development (HED) announced today that George Mason University is one of 40 paired winners of the Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative Planning Grant Competition. Nearly 300 applications were submitted for capacity-building partnerships between U.S. colleges and universities and higher education institutions in Sub-Saharan African nations. George Mason University and other paired winners will receive planning grants from USAID of \$50,000 each (a complete list of winners may be found at www.hedprogram.org).

"This competition is an important opportunity to build the kind of higher education capacity critical to the development of Africa," said Joseph Carney, director of USAID's Office of Education. "This initiative was proposed during the Higher Education Summit for Global Development and subsequent regional summit held in Rwanda last year. We are delighted to see this effort moving forward and expect great results from these planning grants."

These paired institutions will use the grants to develop plans to address regional and national economic development priorities such as engineering, health, agriculture, environment and natural resources, science and technology, education and teacher training/preparation, and business, management and economics.

George Mason University will partner with the University of Sierra Leone to develop a four-campus community college system for the nation, under the sponsorship of Ernest Bai Koroma, President of Sierra Leone, and under the direction of the Sierra Leone Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

HED manages the competition which grew out of the Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative (www.aplu.org), a collaborative effort between a number of higher education associations and other organizations, led by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (A.P.L.U.), formerly the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC).

"We were elated by the astounding number of highly qualified applications received, and even more pleased by how many applications demonstrated a strong understanding of higher education needs in Africa," said Dr. Tully Cornick, executive director of HED. "The top 40 paired winning institutions represent the best of these applications, and

plans that are developed as a result of the grants will address a variety of critical development needs. It is our belief that if funding is found to implement these plans, we will see tangible, measurable and sustainable impact made in these African countries."

"This important initiative continues to illustrate the enormous unmet need for higher education partnerships in Africa," added Peter McPherson, president of A.P.L.U. "We see this as just the beginning—this is an ongoing campaign to accomplish much more in engaging higher education institutions in Africa."

HED, funded by a cooperative agreement with USAID, was founded by the six major U.S. higher education associations to engage U.S. colleges and universities in international development. For more information about HED and to view details about the planning grants corn petition, visit www.HEDprodrum.orcl.

The American people, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, have provided economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide for nearly 50 years. For more information on USAID, visit www.USAID.gov.

THE 94TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the suffering of millions of Armenians between 1915 and 1923 due to actions by the Ottoman Empire. In those eight years, approximately 2 million Armenians were deported from their traditional homeland. Of those, 1.5 million were senselessly killed and the remaining 500,000 were expelled from their homes. This genocide served as models for other horrific massacres and ethnic purges that sadly persisted throughout the 20th century.

There is broad agreement that indeed what took place was genocide. On May 24, 1915, the Allied Powers England, France and Russia issued a joint statement charging the Sublime Porte of committing "a crime against humanity." The U.S. showed firm opposition to the unfolding horrors. Secretary of State Lansing in 1915 authorized the Ambassador to the Sublime Porte to engage to "stop Armenian persecution," and President Wilson set up relief funds for the victims and survivors, including 132,000 orphans who became foster children of the American people.

Genocide was also corroborated by German and British archives and records of diplomats who served in the Ottoman Empire at the time. The United States National Archives and Record Administration holds extensive documentation on the genocide, and the UN General Assembly in 1946 and the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide recognized the Armenian Genocide as they type of crime the U.N. intended to prevent and punish by codifying existing standards. In 1975, a House Joint Resolution designated April 24 of that year as "National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man" in part to remember all victims of genocide, especially those of Armenian ancestry.

We welcome steps today by the governments of Turkey and Armenia—as the official

inheritors of these fateful policies of the Ottoman government—to normalize relations and begin working through this history. Indeed, reconciliation of painful history is an important means of preventing future tragedies of this scope.

We believe this process will be strengthened if the President—in his annual message commemorating the April 24, 1915 declaration by Allied Powers—to accurately characterize the mindless massacre of Armenians as genocide and to recall the proud record of U.S. opposition to this persecution.

IN HONOR OF THE KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS COUNCIL #3182

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Knights of Columbus “Christopher Council” (Council #3182) as they celebrate their 60th anniversary of service to the Church and Community in the State of Delaware.

The Knights of Columbus exists throughout the United States, providing valuable services to their communities that would otherwise be left undone. For over 125 years, the organization has dedicated time, money, energy, and service to the sick, disabled, and anyone in need of help through a variety of programs. During the last sixty years, the Christopher Council has gone above and beyond its call of duty and provided an extraordinary amount of service to our local community. I commend them for their efforts.

This Council’s work here extends to a variety of organizations and interests, as the members have continually sought to help others indiscriminately since the inception of its charter on September 29, 1948. Most recently, this Council has given major support to the St. Helena and Holy Rosary Parishes and Schools by actively supporting their annual carnivals and by sponsoring scholarships. Furthermore, the Christopher Council regularly offers numerous services to the Claymont and Wilmington area outreach programs as well as Claymont’s annual Community Pride Festival and their yearly Christmas parade. Additionally, this organization assists the Cub Scouts, the Little Sisters of the Poor, and the Special Olympics, among other worthy organizations. They act as a leader within their own great institution by hosting our statewide Knights of Columbus summer picnic each year.

Once again, I am proud to recognize the Knights of Columbus Christopher Council for the profound impact they have made on our community. I am confident that they will continue to build on their accomplishments and strengthen their organization while improving our community even further. I wish them all the very best for the future.

INTRODUCING THE SENATOR PAUL
SIMON WATER FOR THE WORLD
ACT OF 2009

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, in honor of the 39th Annual Earth Day celebration, I am introducing the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2009, with Representatives DONALD PAYNE, DANA ROHR-ABACHER, JESSE JACKSON JR., ZACH WAMP, PETER WELCH, JOHN BOOZMAN, DAN BURTON, GEORGE MILLER, and JEFF FORTENBERRY as original cosponsors. The purpose of this Act is to empower the U.S. Government to respond to the pressing poverty, security, and environmental threats presented by the dire mismanagement and shortage of global freshwater.

Today, one-fifth of the world’s population relies on freshwater that is either polluted or significantly overdrawn. A lack of safe water and sanitation is an ongoing threat to global security and remains the world’s greatest health problem, accounting for 2 million deaths a year and half the illness in the developing world.

At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa the United States and 185 other countries agreed to the goal of cutting in half the percentage of people without access to safe water and basic sanitation by 2015. I worked with the Chair and Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Henry Hyde and Tom Lantos, and Senate Majority and Minority Leaders Bill Frist and HARRY REID to enact the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005. This landmark bipartisan legislation established investment in safe and affordable water for the world’s poorest as a major goal of U.S. foreign assistance.

We are halfway to the 2015 Millennium Development completion date and we must redouble our efforts. Although progress is being made through innovative partnerships between the U.S. Government, NGOs, businesses, and local partners, nearly 900 million people worldwide still lack access to safe drinking water and 2 out of 5 people on the planet lack basic sanitation services. By 2025, climate change and rapid population growth will further stress water resources and are expected to leave 2.8 billion people in more than 48 countries facing severe and chronic water shortages.

The United States cannot sustainably meet its poverty alleviation, global health, or development assistance goals without addressing the issue of safe water and sanitation. This legislation answers the call to act. The overarching goal of the Water for the World Act is to provide 100 million of the world’s poorest with first-time access to safe drinking water and sanitation on a sustainable basis by 2015. To accomplish this goal the legislation builds upon the Water for the Poor framework for investment, expands U.S. foreign assistance capacity, and recognizes sustainable water and sanitation policy as vital to long-term diplomatic and development efforts.

The Water for the World Act complements legislation introduced recently in the Senate by Senators RICHARD DURBIN, BOB CORKER, and PATTY MURRAY. Through this legislation we will

help the U.S. government focus its efforts and fully implement a smart and efficient global water strategy that meets our commitment to extend safe drinking water and sanitation to over a billion people in need.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF BART ANDERSON

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, Southern Utah has lost a local treasure with the passing of Bart Anderson of St. George, Utah.

Bart Anderson was often described by people who meet him for the first time as “bear-sized Bart Anderson”. He loomed large in the community life of Washington County. He was a retired St. George hematologist, historian and folklorist. Everyone knew him as “Ranger Bart” because he devoted his golden years to giving slide shows at nearby national parks—including Zion National Park—as well as at state parks.

I knew Bart Anderson as a man with a passion for the stories of this part of the West, known as Utah’s Dixie—so named because cotton was one of the crops grown by the Mormon settlers here at the time of the Civil War.

One of Bart’s most popular presentations was one on the outlaw Butch Cassidy. It featured vintage photos of Butch Cassidy, who Bart often pointed out, could charm the locals and even the lawmen of that era.

Bart was a talented and versatile man, who turned down a number of more lucrative business offers because they would take him away from Dixie and he said he had too much red dirt running through his veins to leave.

As a child, he contracted polio and when doctors said he wouldn’t walk again, his father threw him in the swimming pool to help make him strong. When he was 11, Bart’s father arranged for him to work for the Boy Scouts as a guide into the back country. He developed a great love of hiking, including the Grand Canyon.

As an adult, he merged his love of hiking with his passion for story-telling by giving walking tours in downtown St. George. That morphed into a series of history lectures for which he developed over 100 slide programs that communicated his love of place to residents and visitors alike.

He married his sweetheart, Delorice, whom he called “the wind beneath my wings.” She was often in the audience during his lectures and performances. Whether he was reciting “The Ballad of Sam McGee” around a campfire with a troop of Boy Scouts, or researching history at the Washington County Historical Society, Bart Anderson was happiest when he was immersed in folklore. He received many local state and national honors, including an award as Outstanding Volunteer from former First Lady Hillary Clinton.

One of his close friends, Lyman Hafen, told the local newspaper that Anderson was one-of-a-kind—with a heart as big as Zion Canyon. I was very proud to be his friend and while he will be missed, he will never be forgotten.

HONORING MRS. JOYCE HERNCANE

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Joyce Herncane of Schellsburg for her efforts in preserving the history and heritage of Bedford County and its people.

Mrs. Herncane led efforts, on behalf of the Schellsburg Bicentennial Committee, to celebrate the town's 2008 bicentennial. This included the opening of a museum that documented much of Schellsburg's past, and was made free to the public throughout the summer. This exhibit, brimming with memorabilia of the town's beginnings as well as items from throughout Schellsburg's history, contained displays ranging from school and sports history, to a saddlebag belonging to Peter Schell that was carried in the 1908 Centennial Parade. Exhibits paid tribute to author Dean Koontz and songwriter Maribeth Derry as well. The town's bicentennial activities culminated with a Christmas Home Tour of new and historic Schellsburg homes. All these events served to fund the continued restoration and preservation of the Old Log Church and Cemetery in Schellsburg.

I congratulate Mrs. Herncane for all her hard work. Her efforts, to preserve and make known the history of her community, will afford future generations the opportunity to benefit from Schellsburg's rich past.

COMMEMORATING THE 94TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, as a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, and the representative of a large and vibrant community of Armenian Americans, I join my colleagues in the sad commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.

Today we declare once again that the Turkish and American governments must finally acknowledge what we have long understood: that the unimaginable horror committed on Turkish soil in the aftermath of World War I was an act of genocide.

The tragic events began on April 24, 1915, when more than 200 of Armenia's religious, political and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople and killed. Ultimately, more than 1.5 million Armenians were systematically murdered at the hands of the Young Turks, and more than 500,000 more were exiled from their native land.

On this 94th anniversary of the genocide, I join with the chorus of voices that grows louder with each passing year. We simply will not allow the planned elimination of an entire people to remain in the shadows of history. The Armenian Genocide must be acknowledged, studied, and never, ever allowed to happen again.

Three years ago I joined with my colleagues in the Caucus in urging PBS not to give a plat-

form to the deniers of the genocide by canceling a planned broadcast of a panel which included two scholars who deny the Armenian Genocide. This panel was to follow the airing of a documentary about the Armenian Genocide. Along with Representative ANTHONY WEINER, I led a successful effort to convince Channel Thirteen in New York City to pull the plug on these genocide deniers.

The United States must join other parliaments in passing a resolution affirming that the Armenian people were indeed subjected to genocide. The House Committee on Foreign Affairs took an important step two years ago in passing such a resolution. In the 111th Congress, I am a proud cosponsor of H. Res. 252, and I am hopeful that this resolution will make it to the Floor.

An acknowledgment of the genocide is not our only objective. I remain committed to ensuring that the U.S. government continues to provide direct financial assistance to Armenia. Over the years, this aid has played a critical role in the economic and political advancement of the Armenian people. This year I have joined with my colleagues in requesting economic and military assistance for Armenia.

Legislation passed in the 109th Congress and signed into law to reauthorize the Export Import Bank included important language prohibiting the Bank from funding railroad projects in the South Caucasus region that deliberately exclude Armenia.

American tax dollars should not be used to support efforts to isolate Armenia, and these provisions would prevent that by ensuring that U.S. funds are not used to support the construction of a new railway that bypasses Armenia. A railway already exists that connects the nations of Turkey, Georgia, and Azerbaijan, but because it crosses Armenia, an expensive and unnecessary new railway had been proposed. Allowing the exclusion of Armenia from important transportation routes would stymie the emergence of this region as an important East-West trade corridor.

On this solemn day, our message is clear: the world remembers the Armenian Genocide, and the governments of Turkey and the United States must declare—once and for all—that they do, too.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
REVEREND CHESTER RIGGINS, SR.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Reverend Chester Riggins, Sr. of Fresno, California, who passed away at the age of 80 years old. Reverend Riggins was preceded in death by his first wife Lillian Hines, his son Rodney Chester and daughter Diedra Grazelle and is survived by his second wife Anna Marie and his children Chester Jr., Shawn Mark, Noel Patrick, Sheila Antionette and Freida Yvonne along with their families.

Chester was born on December 8, 1928 in Marshall, Texas to John and Effie Riggins. Chester grew up in Marshall, Texas, until the middle of the fifth grade at which time his family moved to Fresno, CA, in December of 1938. Upon arriving in Fresno, he began at-

tending Lincoln Elementary School. During his teenage years he attended junior high at Thomas A. Edison Jr. High School and graduated from Thomas A. Edison High School in 1945. In 1946, he volunteered for the U.S. Army and following his basic training was stationed in Guam. After an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army in 1947 he enrolled at Fresno State College.

As a child Chester answered an altar call during a chapel service at Park School in Marshall, Texas. Upon settling in Fresno his family attended the Second Baptist Church where he was baptized by Reverend Charles H. Byrd and Reverend L.C. Garret, and then transferred to Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. In 1950, he served as a Sunday school teacher, Director of Baptist Training Union, church clerk and church financial secretary. Two years later he was ordained as Deacon and served as Deacon Chairman for 5 years.

Chester continued to grow in his religious studies when he was called to the Gospel Ministry in 1960. On January 8, 1961, he was licensed as a Pastor by Reverend H.S. Moore. In 1961, he was invited and served as Youth Minister for Mt. Pleasant. He was ordained on January 25, 1962, to the Gospel Ministry by Reverend L.C. Garrett and assumed pastorage at St. Rest on February 13, 1962.

Reverend Riggins was instrumental in bringing many people back to the church even after being inactive members. The church grew both in spirituality and financially under the leadership of Pastor Riggins. As the congregation grew so did the need for a bigger building. His leadership in the community proved to be instrumental as the new building broke ground in March of 1979 and was ready for use at the Christmas Eve celebration in December 1979.

Pastor Riggins was also an active member of the community throughout the years. He was a founding board member of the Fresno Police Chaplains Organization, member of the Concerned Citizens for Quality Education, temporary Chairman of the Fresno Model Cities Program and a member of the West Fresno Interdenominational Alliance.

It is my privilege to say Reverend Chester Riggins, Sr., was an honorable and respected man with a commitment to God, family, and the community. He will forever live in the lives of the people he so graciously touched. I am honored and humbled to join his family in celebrating the life of this spiritually amazing man whose legacy lives on at Saints Rest Missionary Baptist Church of Fresno, California.

HONORING ARMSTRONG WOODS
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th Anniversary of California's Armstrong Woods State Natural Reserve, the only protected old growth Redwood forest in Sonoma County that was once thick with some of the largest trees on the planet. This serene and stunning natural retreat comprises 805 acres of land and is home to California's majestic coast Redwoods.

Armstrong Woods boasts a diversity of trees and shrubs that create a multi-layered canopy

supporting the growth of each species in the grove. Trees and plants in Armstrong Woods, such as Douglas Fir, Big Leaf Maple, Redwood Trillium, Sword Fern, and the most renowned, the imperial coast Redwood, contribute to the forest's diverse ecosystem.

Nurtured by abundant winter rain, moderate year-round temperatures and partial shade, coast Redwoods can grow up to 2–3 feet per year. At more than 310-feet tall, Parson Jones is the Reserve's tallest tree. The cloak of fog that protects the Redwoods from summer's harsh drought conditions allows these supreme trees to flourish along the coast from southern Oregon to central California.

Despite logging and raging fires, these mighty trees continue to provide their striking beauty, ecological significance and are witnesses to hundreds of years of history. The Reserve's oldest tree, Colonel Armstrong, is estimated to be more than 1,400 years old.

Part of the Redwood's resiliency is attributed to its natural resistance to insects, fungi, and fire. Some trees bare scars of the fire that roared in 1926, which is a testament to the strength of the thick, reddish bark.

The history of Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve extends back to 1850, when the area was established as a lumber camp on the north bank of the Russian River called Stumptown, known today as Guerneville.

In 1874, Colonel James Boydston Armstrong, a journalist, surveyor and colonel with the Union Army, relocated from Ohio to Sonoma County where he logged and operated a sawmill site. Armstrong acquired 440 acres of land three miles north of Guerneville, and deeded the land to his daughter, Kate Armstrong, with the intention of preserving the land until its opening as an arboretum.

Because of Armstrong's financial distress and his daughter's ailing health, the parcel was eventually purchased by a family friend, Harrison M. LeBaron. Armstrong's vigilant efforts to preserve the land prevailed under the direction of his daughter Lizzie and the LeBaron family. They launched a well-supported campaign to protect the once mighty forest.

In 1917, the County of Sonoma purchased the property for \$80,000 and operated the grove until the State of California assumed ownership in 1934. The Reserve's trails and amphitheatre were created by the Civil Conservation Corps during the Great Depression.

Thanks in large part to Colonel Armstrong's preservation efforts, today the beauty, history and serenity of Armstrong Woods is enjoyed by students, campers, hikers and visitors from around the globe.

Armstrong Woods State Natural Reserve offers visitors an abundance of hiking trail choices, ranging from brief one-mile walks, to an intense 9-mile loop that ascends from 120 feet to 1,250 feet at the summit by Bullfrog Pond. Adventure seekers can enjoy back country campsites, equestrians can trot along trails and families can meander into the park to enjoy lunch flanked by awe-inspiring, 300-foot trees.

Through Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods, the Reserve's cooperating volunteer association, students learn about the forest's flora and fauna and can participate in an Environmental Living Program where they discover and explore the area.

Madam Speaker, my hope is that through continued preservation efforts and work on be-

half of park staff and volunteers, Armstrong Woods State Natural Reserve will continue to serve as a tranquil reprieve, an ecological treasure, and a recreational destination for years to come.

HONORING RUSSELL DUNHAM,
WORLD WAR II MEDAL OF
HONOR WINNER

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Russell Dunham, Medal of Honor Winner, who passed away at the age of 89 on April 6, 2009.

Russell Dunham was born in 1920, in East Carondelet, Illinois and grew up on a farm in Fosterburg, Illinois. With his brother, Ralph, Russell traveled to Peoria, Illinois in August, 1940 to find work. Instead of finding a job, both of them enlisted in the Army and would serve together throughout the war.

Russell saw action in North Africa, Sicily, and Anzio as part of the 3rd Infantry Division. On January 8, 1945, TSgt. Russell Dunham and his platoon were stationed on a snowy hillside near Kayzersberg, in the Alsace region of France, near the German border. German machine gun nests were covering the Americans from positions at the top of the hill and American artillery units were about to begin shelling the location where Dunham and his men were situated. This prompted Dunham to take the courageous action that would earn him the Medal of Honor.

With a mattress cover over his uniform to help blend into the white surroundings and carrying 12 carbine magazines and a dozen grenades, Dunham made his way up the hill toward the enemy position. When he was within 10 yards of the enemy machine guns, Dunham stood up to attack and was struck in the back by enemy fire. Despite his wounds, Dunham got to his feet to resume his attack, kicking away an enemy grenade that had landed at his feet.

Dunham continued his assault, taking out the first machine gun nest, then proceeded another 50 yards where he took out a second machine nest. Finally, he made his way up the hill another 65 yards where he took out the third and final enemy location.

As a direct result of Russell Dunham's single-handed charge, the lives of 150 of his fellow soldiers were saved. For this heroism, Russell Dunham was awarded the Medal of Honor at Zeppelin Stadium in Nuremberg, Germany on April 23, 1945.

After returning home from the war, Russell Dunham accepted a position with the Veterans Administration where he worked for 30 years, explaining benefits to veterans.

As is typical of so many who display rare acts of courage, Russell Dunham would deflect praise and insist that he did not consider himself a hero. He claimed that he was just doing his job. I am sure the 150 soldiers who survived that day because of Dunham's heroics would have a different opinion.

Russell Dunham is survived by a daughter, stepdaughter, stepson, three brothers, three sisters, three grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of honor and appreciation for a true American hero, Russell Dunham.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING
OF SPECIALIST MICHAEL J.
ANAYA, UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Specialist Michael J. Anaya, United States Army. Specialist Anaya gave his life in defense of our Nation and was killed in action on April 12, 2009 in Baiji, Iraq. Specialist Anaya was serving with the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Nick-named the "Anayalator" by his Army buddies, Michael loved the Army and wanted to serve in the Infantry. His military skills were obvious to everyone, as he was awarded the Expert Infantryman's Badge along with other military awards. He loved the military and his country. He also loved his family, friends, and fishing. He was a fine young American—an example of the greatness of our Nation.

Michael was buried with full military honors and will go to his eternal rest as an American hero. We remember this patriot—this fine soldier—and thank him for making the ultimate sacrifice for the United States of America. I am always reminded of the greatness of our country when I meet military families like the Anaya's who supported Michael as he volunteered to defend America.

The people of Crestview, Northwest Florida, and our Nation have many reasons to be proud of Specialist Anaya. Vicki and I will keep Michael's entire family, especially his parents, Carmelo Sr. and Cheryl Anaya of Crestview, his brother Carmelo Jr., and his sister, Trista, in our thoughts and prayers. I hope all the people of Northwest Florida and our nation do the same. May God bless Specialist Michael Anaya and all of those who serve in our armed forces and defend our Nation around the globe.

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ST. ANTHONY
CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN SAN ANTONIO,
FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 125th Anniversary of St. Anthony Catholic School in San Antonio, Florida. Founded on April 29, 1884 through the tireless efforts of Father E.J. Dunne, the school grew out of a class of 14 children taught in the home of Mrs. Ceclia E. Morse.

The first school house was a small 12 foot by 24 foot wooden structure. In 1892, the Benedictine Sisters, who remain involved with the school to this day, arrived from Pennsylvania and constructed two large wooden

school buildings. In 1922, Bishop Barry of St. Augustine dedicated a three story, red brick building which opened to 100 students. Today, St. Anthony's campus includes seven buildings and the enrollment has doubled in just the last 10 years.

As the oldest parochial school in Pasco County and in the Diocese of St. Petersburg, St. Anthony's strives to offer students the best educational start possible regardless of religion. In its 125th year, St. Anthony continues to welcome a new generation of young students with the goal of educating the total person: mind, body and spirit.

Madam Speaker, it is truly an honor to have such an exceptional and longstanding school in my district. St. Anthony Catholic School and all who have contributed to its success over the last 125 years should be commended for their commitment to education, child development and service to the community.

COMMEMORATION OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, today marks the 94th Anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian genocide. This devastating event is a reminder that we cannot allow for such atrocities to happen again. It is unacceptable to witness thousands of innocent victims suffer and die without taking any action.

Ninety-four years ago, the Ottoman Turks began their attempts to exterminate the Armenian people. From 1915 until 1923, 1.5 million Armenians were tortured and killed. Men were separated from their families and murdered; women and children were forced to march across the Syrian desert without water, food, or possessions; many died of hunger or thirst or were killed when they lagged behind during the forced marches into the desert.

These acts of intolerance cannot be termed anything but genocide. We must honor and recognize those who survived but also remember those who perished. Acknowledging the commemoration of the Armenian genocide, is an important to tribute to the Armenian people, especially the American-Armenian community.

CHICAGOAN RITA SALLIE'S COURT STATEMENT BEFORE TWO MEN WERE SENTENCED IN HER DAUGHTER'S SLAYING

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, it's my sad responsibility to call your attention to the anguish that Ms. Rita Sallie is experiencing. Hers is a pain felt by so many mothers and families across this great nation. Losing a child is a tragedy that no parent should have to endure but, once again, an innocent child whose life was so full of promise abruptly lost her life due to gun violence in my Chicago community.

Rather than add more of my own words, I'm taking this opportunity to enter into the record

the entire statement by Ms. Rita Sallie. Somehow, she found the courage to speak through her pain and wrote a heartfelt statement to the Chicago Sun-Times—a statement aimed, directly, at the convicted murderers of her daughter, 15-year-old Schanna. It is important that history remembers her petition as it sadly resonates for millions of parents throughout the United States.

Here's her statement, in its entirety:

They stole the life of a beautiful, kind, free-spirited girl and made her a statistic. Why? To get revenge for an argument? A fight? The leader should have gotten over it and walked away. But he was mad, you see, so the only reasonable thing for a coward to do was to get an idiot to shoot up a park where children play, only to hurt my child who was feet away.

She was born on Dec. 16, 1993, and was a cute, bald bundle of quiet joy. She grew to be a sincere, respectful, loving, selfless spirit filled with the joy of life. Her smile is infectious and no one can deny her energy and pure heart. She has a confident yet modest bearing and a smile like a balm to the soul. I would not realize until after I saw her smile how much I yearned for it.

The child I anticipated seeing everyday was gunned down in the middle of a park, behind Funston Elementary School, by two nothings. She was supposed to start 8th grade in the fall of 2007, but she never made it. She will never have the chance to show herself to the world. I will never have the chance to watch her make her way.

Schanna has always been so full of life. Her energy and vitality would leave me rolling my eyes in exasperation because sometimes I just wanted her to sit still and take a breath. They took the energy that left me breathless and left her lying, unmoving in the park behind Funston Elementary School where people could see her at her most vulnerable. They denied her the right to live, breathe, laugh, love and dream.

Schanna has such a generous spirit. She thought nothing of sharing her time or her possessions with you. She hated to see others unhappy or angry. There was nothing that she had that she wasn't willing to share. This child would take her birthday money and buy Christmas presents for everyone else. She was supposed to donate her organs so that others could continue living, even though she would not. They denied her that right, as well, because her heart stopped before her organs could be harvested, leaving them unusable and the recipients to wait and maybe even succumb themselves.

I have always been amazed by her. Over the years I would ask myself what did a barely passable person like me do to earn the privilege of having Schanna as my child? Somehow I was blessed to have a little girl with a brilliant mind, a big heart and a generous spirit. Although I struggle with being a better person, I do try to teach my children to know right from wrong, to make principled decisions and to have good moral character. Schanna took what I taught her and magnified it. She not only listened to what I advised, she put it into practice so much that she became the teacher, and I, the student. She is the person that I have struggled all my life to become.

People have always been drawn to her. Even as a toddler, people would stop me on the street to admire her and buy her small gifts, a piece of candy, or lollipop. That never changed. Up until she was taken from me, I would watch her walk to school by herself and before she made it, she would be surrounded by so many friends that I would no longer be able to tell her apart from the sea of blue and white uniforms.

All I have left are memories. The memories of our life before they intruded. The memories that I cannot call up because they are pushed aside for what they did to her on June 25, 2007. I saw my baby lying in the park, eyes open staring, with bits of her favorite fruit scattered around her. I struggle to recall the constant twinkle in her eye, the bright smile and the distinctive cackle of her laugh. I am embarrassed to admit that I try to avoid thinking of her at all because I don't want to recall that day and all the days that came after. I have to put her away, for now. Maybe, in the future, but not now.

She had a life plan at 12 years old and they denied her all of her dreams and aspirations. She'll never experience going to high school, or college, or even the 8th grade. She will never be consumed by her first love and I will never have the chance to help her through her first broken heart. There will be no stories of her travels, the people she would meet and the things she would see and do. She never even got the chance to ride public transportation by herself.

Over the years, people have told me that I was a strong woman. On June 25, 2007, I was exposed as a fraud. I'm not the strong woman I've always considered myself to be. My armor is only as strong as its weakest point. My weakness is my family, my children. They not only put a chink in my armor, but shattered it and left it lying at my feet, leaving me fearful and weak. I have gone from a strong, independent person to someone who would like nothing more than to crawl into a dark hole and lick the wounds that will never heal. My sleep is restless. I am overly emotional and struggle to make the simplest decisions and have felt no true happiness since that time.

Since losing her, I have tried to find some sense of normalcy to my life. But I can't, because I know that I'm supposed to kiss three children before I go to work, not two. I know that I'm supposed to cook for four people, not three. I know I am supposed to hear three voices when I come home from a long day. I know I'm supposed to talk to three children about what is going on in their lives. I know that I'm supposed to hug three children. It's impossible to return to normal when you know these things in your heart and mind and that knowing is not enough. Her absence is the 800 pound gorilla in the room that everyone notices but tries to ignore, hoping that someone else will mention it first. The emptiness is physical and must be kept at bay.

They left me powerless. I would do everything to help my children through crises real and imagined, and they knew it. They took away my power when they hurt my little girl. I had to leave her in the care of the paramedics, police, hospital, morgue and funeral home, only to lay her to rest in a cemetery surrounded by strangers.

She could forgive people for anything. Make her sad or angry and a few minutes later all would be forgiven, whether you apologized or not. Knowing her, she's probably forgiven them. For years I wished I were more like her, but I'm not and despite my best efforts, I never will be. Schanna is a better person that I am in every way. She may have forgiven them, but I hate them. I have a fiery hatred for both of them that I know will one day consume me. The anger eats away at my mind and heart, knowing what they did to her, I seethe at the very thought of them as part of our history, that they are an asterisk on my family tree. We don't want them there, but they are, forever.

When the situation occurred, my imagination made them seem big, menacing, nearly otherworldly. Upon actually seeing them, I realize they are two nothings. One, a pint-sized, arrogant wannabe outsider and the

other, a stupid and spineless follower. Two insignificant, pathetic nobodies who barged into my life and took away my child. They had no right to decide if anyone lives or dies, yet they took the liberty of walking away with the life of my child.

The leader made the fateful decision to have his lackey discharge a weapon in broad daylight into a park behind a school where scores of children congregated because he was mad. Even after hurting my child, he neither ran like the coward he is nor admitted his involvement like the man he should have been; rather he stood on the street and drank alcoholic beverages as though hurting a child made him thirsty. The circumstances surrounding the loss of my little girl makes me light hearted with nervous rage.

The leader came to my country, my state, my city, my neighborhood, took my child's life and stole her future. Because he was mad, he committed an act from which none of us can ever recover. Not my family, not the shooter's family or even his family. His arrogance and leadership over those in the gang made for a potent mix and we, my family and the community, paid the price for it. He came here thinking that he could do whatever he wanted to whomever he wanted, whenever he wanted and would suffer no consequences. This makes him extremely dangerous to the general public.

After the guilty verdict for the shooter, I happened to run into Susanna Rosa, who proceeded to tell me that that shooter was a good kid and that the gang threatened him. They told him to do it or else they would kill him. She let me know that he'd graduated from high school and everything. Well, the shooter is stupid and lacks moral character. He let a person who is of no importance tell him to commit an act with wide-ranging consequences. Why? To defend him from an argument that he could have and should have walked away from. The only person wielding a gun out there was the shooter. He hid near a car like a 2-year-old and came out gun blazing like an Old West villain to defend someone else. Nothing Ms. Rosa told me changes my opinion at all. I will accept no excuses. My hatred has not dimmed but flares white-hot at the idea of the destruction he's caused in our lives, throwing away his own in the process for a nothing, a nobody.

I had the opportunity to observe the shooter and watched him smile. He neither smirked nor grinned, but smiled a big smile when he sat at the defense table towards the end of the trial. My stomach clinched and my skin became flushed. I was mad, just like his leader, the arrogant nobody who he came to rescue, but I did nothing, nor did I try to enlist anyone to do anything. The leader and his defender should have done the same thing and none of us would be here today and my little girl would be finishing her first year of high school.

During the trial, the shooter had a number of family members and friends at court to support him. He didn't consider those same people who sat behind him and gave him them their strength. He didn't think about those people then. No. He thought only about rescuing his leader from an argument by using armed violence. High school diploma or not, if he's stupid and dangerous enough to let someone convince him to hurt others, then he needs to be taken off the street for the rest of his life.

They took away her life and her future, her sister Joyce's best friend, her brother Antwun's protector and my dearly loved child and teacher.

What they did is nothing less than an act of domestic terrorism. They took Schanna Danielle Gayden, just 13 years old, and left in their wake a destroyed family, distraught

friends and a traumatized community. Despite their actions, Schanna actually brought the community together. People recognized how special she is and they came together for her and for us. They stood vigil with us during the darkest hours of our lives and they stand with us still. Schanna touched more people in her 13 years than I have during my entire life and continues to do so. She has an intangible gift for which people would recognize and respond.

A tree was planted and a stone set up in her memory in the park where she suffered such a terrible hurt. The park has also been dedicated to her memory. This is the same park where so many children came to play or just watch the world go by. In fact, had they been just a little earlier, I could have been their victim, and my Schanna would still be here to continue the path she set out for herself. I've done all I'm going to do in this life, whereas she hadn't even begun. But it says something about her as a person that a park would be dedicated to her and a memorial tree and stone placed in her memory. On June 27, 2009, there will also be a tree planted at the cemetery where she has been laid to rest. It will be dedicated to her and all of the children lost to violence. These actions say that she is not disposable, the damage done is not collateral. She is important, not just to her family, but to her friends and community.

It is fortunate for them that I was not responsible for charging them with a crime. If I were, they would have been charged with aggravated theft for stealing my baby's life, a gift which is truly priceless and cannot be replaced; and attempted murder, for all the people who were there who could have also been victims. Were it up to me, life without parole is nothing less than they would receive. With that sentence, Your Honor, I am being generous.

However, I do request that because of their deplorable and thoughtless actions, sickening behavior and blatant disregard for all life, and the convictions that stemmed from these, I am respectfully requesting that you, the Honorable Judge Nicholas T. Ford, sentence both defendants to the maximum punishment allowed by law.

Thank you for your consideration.

RECOGNIZING THE VOLUNTEERS SERVING WITH THE FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the volunteers who assist the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. These volunteers work with deputies and civilian staff to help inmates to improve their lives during incarceration and to prepare them for a successful transition back into the community.

With more than 500 deputies, the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office is the largest Sheriff's office in Virginia and among the largest in the country. These deputies perform invaluable services for Fairfax County residents to include providing court security, managing the detention center, serving the civil law process. Volunteers with the Sheriff's Office help provide inmate programs and services at the Adult Detention Center (ADC) and Pre-Release Center, including mental health counseling, religious services, alcohol and drug support groups, health education, library services and job training.

Volunteers complete a Sheriff's Office training program and also work closely with staff to ensure that best practices are followed. A recent study completed at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center showed the significant impact that detention center rehabilitation programs can provide. The efforts of these volunteers improve the lives of those incarcerated, reduce recidivism, and make our communities safer.

Each year, the Sheriff's Office hosts a luncheon to thank all of the dedicated individuals who help make the volunteer program a success. The office also recognizes one individual in each service area and it is my honor to recognize these extraordinary citizens:

EDUCATION

Bill Richey shows tremendous dedication as he works to help Hispanic inmates improve their literacy level and enable them to take better advantage of the educational resources provided to inmates. He works very hard to ensure that these inmates achieve some measure of education to provide a much needed tool on their pathways to success.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG SERVICES

Noah Freeman recognized the need to provide more substance abuse services and helped to coordinate with Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) to provide greater resources and assistance to those in need. A testament to his impact is witnessed daily as individuals he assisted share the message and practices of AA with their fellow inmates.

CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE

Celine Baker serves as the volunteer female chaplaincy coordinator. She has worked tirelessly to launch new services, develop a consistent ministry strategy for female inmates, coordinate one-on-one ministry for female inmates, and provide counsel and advice to volunteers, staff, and the chaplains. Celine often dedicates in excess of 25 volunteer hours per week and consistently exemplifies the character and integrity of the chaplaincy office.

OPPORTUNITIES, ALTERNATIVES, and RESOURCES

Ben Perchik began to volunteer at the Adult Detention Center with the goal of "generating good." He has succeeded in this effort and has even received letters from several past students naming Ben as the person who most positively affected their lives. Since beginning to volunteer with OAR in 2004, he has consistently undertaken more responsibility and currently serves a facilitator for two classes—Life Skills and Fatherhood.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Norma "Timmie" Edwards has served as a volunteer at the Adult Detention Center longer than some employees have worked there. In fact, the Sheriff's Office volunteer program does not know how long it has been and she cannot remember! Ms. Timmie's commitment to serve the inmates at the Adult Detention Center is impressive for its longevity and her passion. As she reluctantly ends her time volunteering at the Adult Detention Center, there is no doubt about the inspiration she has provided for inmates, volunteers, and staff.

The outstanding efforts of the above-mentioned individuals are particularly noteworthy but one must acknowledge the nearly 300 volunteers who have contributed their time and support to the Sheriff's Office during the past year. These volunteers provide services that help to place inmates on a path to success. They offer their time that could be spent elsewhere to provide encouragement and support

that will improve lives during incarceration and provide for a successful transition to help get inmates back on their feet. The efforts of each and every one of these volunteers is worthy of our praise.

The staff of Fairfax County Sheriff Stan Barry should be commended for their critical role in administering the volunteer program. The efforts of these staffers maximize the contributions of volunteers in the most effective way and provide the support that makes this program a success.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the contributions these individuals and all of the volunteers supporting the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. The selfless commitment of these individuals helps to provide enumerable benefits to Northern Virginia and life-changing services to the inmates being served.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, April 21, 2009.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on Rollcall vote No. 193 (Motion to suspend the rules and Agree to H.R. 388), "nay" on Rollcall vote No. 194 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H.R. 411), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 195 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H.R. 1219).

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2024, THE COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE ADVANCED SAFETY TECHNOLOGY TAX ACT OF 2009

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 2024, the Commercial Motor Vehicle Advanced Safety Technology Tax Act of 2009. This bill is an important step toward improving safety in the commercial vehicle industry. It offers tax credits to incentivize businesses to implement proven safety systems for their fleet. These market-ready technologies will help reduce the number of truck-related crashes, injuries and fatalities on our Nation's roads.

H.R. 2404 addresses a number of critical concerns. First, it identifies widely recognized technologies that are proven to increase safety on our roads. Brake stroke monitoring, collision warning, lane departure warning and vehicle stability systems are proven to reduce collisions, rollovers and crashes resulting from brake failure. We know from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's, FMCSA, 2006 Large Truck Crash Causation Study that these are the most prevalent types of large truck crashes.

Second, during these challenging economic times, there is no better way to move busi-

nesses in the right direction on increasing their safety systems than to provide tax incentives, reducing their financial burdens. This is especially important considering that 95 percent of all trucking companies have fewer than 20 trucks, making almost the entire industry one composed of small businesses.

Finally, this bill takes an appropriate long-term view of emerging safety systems technology by allowing the FMCSA or the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to add qualified safety systems for this tax incentive, once they are proven to significantly enhance the safety or security of drivers and vehicles. I strongly believe that GPS navigation devices for trucks should be made eligible for this incentive. In order to certify this technology as a proven safety system, I have asked the FMCSA to study the effectiveness of GPS navigation devices for trucks and their ability to improve safety for drivers and vehicles. In addition, I have asked the Federal Highway Administration to ensure that any real-time information programs implemented by the Department of Transportation include truck safety as one of its major determinants of effective real-time data collection and dissemination.

There are cutting edge technologies in the navigational device, mapping software and data collection industries that are available and deployed to fleets right now. However, with so many small trucking companies and owner/operator small businesses, not all fleets have access to these sophisticated systems. In addition, challenges remain in the industry with respect to timely and accurate data collection specific to trucks, including changing road conditions or restrictions, as well as grade inclines and declines. There is also a lack of information dissemination to drivers, fleet managers and dispatch centers with no real national framework for real-time data, especially for interstate trucking needs. Unfortunately, my district has seen the tragic consequences of these gaps first hand.

Last September, a tractor trailer filled with over 75,000 pounds of onions was routed onto the Angeles Crest Highway in Southern California, State Rte. 2, by a driver using a GPS navigation device seeking the shortest route to his destination. The Angeles Crest Highway is not suitable for tractor trailers due to its turns and grade inclines and declines. However, the road is often used by drivers as a short-cut in order to avoid congestion on 1-210 and 1-5. With his brakes losing function on the decline into the City of La Cañada Flintridge, the driver lost control of the truck and it plowed through one of the main intersections in the city, through a parking lot, and fortunately only resulted in one injury. Earlier this month, on April 1, an eerily similar accident took place at exactly the same location, but the result was tragically fatal. A driver was using the same Angeles Crest Highway short-cut. His brakes were seen smoking, indicating they had burned out on the steep grade of the road. He hit a vehicle, killing Angel and Angelina Posca, a father and his 12-year-old daughter; struck several more vehicles seriously injuring a dozen more individuals, three critically; and crashed through a bookstore in a local shopping center, causing significant property damage. While the investigation is ongoing, we know that there was a GPS navigation device in the cab of that truck.

In the aftermath of these accidents, our local leaders in La Cañada Flintridge have

been working tirelessly to find solutions that will prevent this kind of accident from happening again in our area and in any other community across the country. I am very pleased that CalTrans banned truck traffic on Angeles Crest Highway for 90 days and that they are now working with the city and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department on mitigation measures that will ensure this road remains free of trucks. I also applaud California State Assemblyman Anthony Portantino and State Senator Carol Liu for introducing State legislation to prohibit, with specified exemptions, truck traffic on the Angeles Crest Highway. I am honored to be working alongside our local leaders in pursuing all means necessary to improve safety on our roads. Like them, I am committed to seeing real-time information provided to drivers through GPS navigation devices that can relay the kind of information drivers need to make the safest decisions on the road.

I strongly believe we must partner cutting-edge safety systems with the kinds of incentives provided in this bill to improve truck safety on our roads. I want to thank my colleagues MIKE THOMPSON and GEOFF DAVIS for providing the leadership they have on this issue and am proud to join them in this effort. I encourage all my colleagues to support this important legislation.

EARTH DAY 2009

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, Earth Day 2009 marks the 39th year in which we've set aside a day to reflect upon our solemn responsibility to protect the environment from the adverse effects of human activity and preserve it for future generations. Earth Day reminds us of our nation's obligation to be good stewards of the planet—a responsibility both moral and practical, personal and collective.

As individuals, we are learning to assess our "footprint" and to recognize that the decisions we make on a daily basis—the cars we drive, the foods we eat, the energy we consume—must be measured against not only our own comfort, but also the sustainability of our planet and its limited resources. It is a personal obligation that cannot be taken lightly; an ethos that firmly commits each of us to passing the great inheritance we have been given to our children in a better form than it was given to us.

As communities, we must reconcile the competing demands of economic development with those of responsible stewardship. It's a particular challenge in high growth areas like the one I represent. My district, the Research Triangle area of North Carolina, has been widely recognized as one of the best areas in the country to live, work, raise a family, and start a business. It is the fastest growing metro region in the country, on track to double in population over the next 20 years, and the dramatic population expansion will bring significant environmental challenges in tow.

We know that we must grow, and we embrace the economic opportunities that such growth presents. But how will we grow? To

maintain and improve our quality of life in the midst of robust expansion and development, we need to undertake a coordinated regional planning effort that meets our infrastructure needs while preserving livability and sustainability. We must promote not just growth, but smart growth.

That is why I brought our colleague, Rep. EARL BLUMENAUER, to the Triangle this week to help me host a summit on Smart Growth Development. He stands as an expert in our body on sustainable development, and the summit brought together elected officials, business leaders, environmentalists, and community activists for panel discussions on smart growth principles and transportation infrastructure. I look forward to working with Rep. BLUMENAUER and my other colleagues to develop tools that will encourage smarter growth, more responsible development, and greater livability in communities across the country.

And as a nation, we need to pursue policies that promote responsible stewardship of the earth here at home while providing responsible leadership in the global arena. This Congress has already begun working with the Obama Administration to forge a new direction for energy policy that will emphasize renewable fuels and energy efficiency.

Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, we've made an unprecedented investment in public transportation and renewable energy production that will spur energy savings. This legislation will accelerate deployment of a new, smart power grid to make the electricity grid more efficient and reliable. They will advance scientific research into battery technology and energy efficiency measures, expand the national effort to weatherize homes, and make a sizeable investment in alternative energy research.

The recovery package addresses critical transit needs as well, investing in buses, commuter and light rail, and intercity passenger rail, including Amtrak and high speed rail. Public transportation, beyond saving individual Americans both time and money, can also help our nation save as much as 4.2 billion gallons of gasoline and reduce carbon emissions by 37 million metric tons each year.

This spending is not simply driven by our commitment to a cleaner and healthier planet; rather, it represents a down-payment on investments to meet our country's economic and infrastructure needs and a blueprint for the direction in which our country's energy and transportation policies will go. They are investments that can fuel our future economy and make our country more prosperous and competitive than ever before.

We must think globally as well, and continue to work towards a comprehensive solution to dramatically curb our greenhouse gas emissions and address the threats of climate change—a threat that our government ignored for far too long. I am pleased that House and committee leadership have recently released draft legislation that would establish a market-based cap and trade policy to serve as a basis for discussion of comprehensive clean energy legislation. This is no idle threat we now face: scientists tell us that we must reduce emissions by roughly 80 percent by mid-century to avoid a dangerous climate tipping point. As the world's largest per capita emitter of greenhouse gases, our nation must be a leader in finding clean energy solutions that reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, create

a new generation of jobs, and provide climate and energy security for us and the generations to come.

On Earth Day 2009, I urge President Obama to continue working with Congress to develop climate change legislation that will set us on a path that is science-based and adequately aggressive. I also urge the President and my colleagues to foster smart growth in American communities by developing policies that promote accessible transit, affordable and sustainable housing, and responsible management of water and other resources. And I urge us all to take actions in our individual lives that reflect our commitment to preserving this wondrous planet and all the diverse forms of life that thrive upon it.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF MICHAEL AND MARIAN
ILITCH ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FOUNDING OF LITTLE
CAESARS

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Michael and Marian Ilitch, entrepreneurs and pillars of the Michigan community, upon the 50th anniversary of the founding of Little Caesars.

On April 22, 1959 fifty years ago to the day, Mike and Marian opened the first Little Caesars in Garden City, Michigan, under the name Little Caesars Pizza Treat. From this one store, Little Caesars would grow to include a pizza empire of many thousands of restaurants through franchising. The company eventually became widely known for its famous catchphrase, "Pizza! Pizza!" which was introduced in 1979. The phrase refers to two pizzas being offered for the comparable price of a single pizza from competitors. In 1998, Little Caesars filled what was then the current largest pizza order, filling an order of 13,386 pizzas from the VF Corporation of Greensboro, NC. Today, Little Caesars is the largest carry-out pizza chain in the world.

Mike was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1929. He is a first generation American of Macedonian descent. A graduate of Cooley High School, Mike also served his country in the United States Marine Corps for four years. After returning home from the Marine Corps, Mike was offered a contract by the Detroit Tigers baseball team and went on to play three years in the minor leagues before he was forced to prematurely end his promising career due to injury. In 1954 Mike met Marian on a blind date arranged by his father. Marian was born and raised in Dearborn, Michigan, a daughter of Macedonian immigrants. They were married a year later.

Over the course of their lives together Mike and Marian have expanded their business and personal partnership very successfully. Today, the family's entities remain privately held. In 1999, the Ilitch's established Ilitch Holdings, Inc. to provide their various enterprises with professional and technical services. These enterprises include Little Caesars, the Detroit Red Wings, the Detroit Tigers, numerous property investments in and around Detroit, as well as the MotorCity Casino. They have been

married for over 50 wonderful years and have seven children together: son Christopher Paul Ilitch (born June 1965) is CEO and President of Ilitch Holdings, Inc.; daughter Denise D. Ilitch (born November 1955) is an attorney and former co-President, with her brother, of Ilitch Holdings. Other children are Ronald "Ron" Tyrus Ilitch (born June 1957), Michael C. Ilitch, Jr., Lisa M. Ilitch Murray, Atanas Ilitch (born Thomas Ilitch) and Carole M. Ilitch Trepeck. Further, in Stanley Cup history, only 12 women have had their names engraved on the trophy including Marian and their three daughters.

The Ilitch family has also established a charitable foundation called Ilitch Charities for Children (ICC). Among other things, the ICC sponsors Little Caesars AAA Hockey Scholarship to encourage amateur sports. The ICC in 2009, so far, has given a total of \$50,000 in grants to the Detroit Renaissance Foundation (\$25,000) and the United Way of Southeastern Michigan (\$25,000) for innovative community programs, demonstrating a broader scope for the charitable organization. Most recently, Ilitch Charities to present a total of \$200,000 to benefit the Greening of Detroit's Conservation Leadership Corps and the Guidance Center's Project CEO.

Madam Speaker for 50 years Little Caesars has stood as a tribute to the hard work of Michael and Marian Ilitch and their family. As they celebrate this enormous milestone, they personify a legacy of excellence, ingenuity, and the irrepressible spirit of the American entrepreneur. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Ilitch's and recognizing their years of loyal service to our community and country.

IN MEMORIAL OF STATE SENATOR
VERNON MALONE

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of State Senator Vernon Malone, who passed away on Saturday, April 18, 2009. In his passing, I lost a friend and North Carolina lost one of its most outstanding citizens; a man who was instrumental in his community, county, and state.

A native of Raleigh, North Carolina, Senator Malone was known for his passionate support for education. After graduating from Shaw University, where he was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Malone worked for 34 years as a teacher and eventually superintendent at the Governor Morehead School for the Blind. As chairman of the Wake County school board, he presided over the merger of Raleigh city schools and Wake County public schools in 1976. This was a significant achievement because it took other school systems in the state years to do the same. When others shied away from issues of race and class, Senator Malone tackled them head-on.

After his work with the school board, Vernon served as a Wake County Commissioner, and eventually as chairman of the Commission, from 1980 until his election to the State Senate in 2002. As always, he fought fervently for education and for equality. He also found time to serve his community in his spare time, serving as vice-chair of Shaw University's board of

trustees; as a trustee for North Carolina State University, the North Carolina Museum of Art and the Wake Education Partnership; as Chairman of the Wake County Coalition for the Homeless; and as a director of Capital Bank, a community bank headquartered in Raleigh.

Most recently, Vernon served in the North Carolina General Assembly representing the state's 14th Senate district and was reelected three times. In the State Senate, he continued to work on education. He was co-chairman of the Senate's Higher Education Committee and Appropriations Committee for Higher Education.

Vernon Malone rose to prominence during a time when prejudice ran high. Rather than succumb to intolerance, he was able to rise above it. I am glad that he was able to witness the inauguration of President Barack Obama earlier this year. It was Vernon and his contemporaries who made it possible for our nation to eventually elect an African American President.

Madam Speaker, Senator Vernon Malone had a commitment to excellence in everything he did. He was a respected legislator, a dedicated public servant, and a great North Carolinian. It is fitting that we honor him and his family today.

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, the Los Angeles basin holds one of the greatest concentrations of humanity in the world. People have come from all over the Earth to live there—when one walks down a street in Glendale or Alhambra one can hear a language from ten thousand miles away on one block and read signs in a vastly different language on the next. But if you look up a little higher, above the signs and above the buildings, you'll see grey-green mountains looking down on it all. In my district, we're right up against the Verdugo, Santa Monica and San Gabriel Mountains, and they surprise you all the time, appearing at street corners from behind the buildings, playing hide-and-seek with intervening hills and highways.

Though few of my constituents live up there, I try to get up into the hills as often as I can, and I'm often surprised by how many of my neighbors I run into on the trail. I think that, like me, they wander in the chaparral and oak forests to get away for a while, and find some perspective in the process. Among the families, teenagers and retirees I pass, I see all of the cultures I know from the streets of my district, all enjoying the fact that they can find some peace and quiet just a few minutes away from one of the largest cities in the world.

Our green spaces play an irreplaceable role in our communities, and on this Earth Day, I would like to celebrate them. This is a day to think globally, but it is also a day to act locally, by taking your family to the park and exploring all that you find there. In the words of John Muir, "When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world."

EARTH DAY

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about Earth Day which as you know is being celebrated in communities throughout our country and around the world today.

I can't begin any conversation about Earth Day without talking about Wisconsin's former governor and U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, who was the driving force behind this important event.

I don't mean to boast but I don't think its coincidental that Wisconsin has been the birthplace of many prominent figures in the environmental movement and who helped shaped the environmental laws that have helped to create.

Wisconsinites have long recognized the need to be stewards of the environment. It's common sense when you grow up next to one of the largest sources of freshwater on the planet.

Gaylord Nelson is certainly one of those environmental champions of whom our state is proud and whose record of advocacy and accomplishment around the environment has not only impacted our nations, but the world. Earth Day is but one example of that.

He is rightly noted and celebrated for his role in the first "Earth Day" event which took place some 39 years ago.

But that is not where his involvement in the environmental movement began and not where it ended either. Before it was popular to be an environmentalist, Senator Nelson was working to make sure our nation's air, water, and natural resources were protected.

Senator Nelson was a mover and shaker not just in creating Earth Day but in starting the movement to bring the protection of our air, water, and public lands to the center of national attention and policy, not just an afterthought.

According to Senator Nelson, his efforts to create what is now Earth Day began in the early 1960s when he became troubled "that the state of our environment was simply a non-issue in the politics of the country."

In 1962, he approached the Kennedy Administration with an idea about how to shift the political spotlight to the need for better and pro-environment laws and policies.

He helped convince President Kennedy to undertake a national conservation tour to draw attention to the issue. While the President did the tour, according to Senator Nelson, "For many reasons the tour did not succeed in putting the issue onto the national political agenda. However, it was the germ of the idea that ultimately flowered into Earth Day."

This has probably been one of the most successful grassroots movements ever as today millions of Americans and millions more around the world are organizing in their communities at river and park cleanup events, planting trees and gardens, and other actions to promote environmental awareness, with the simple message: We ignore the damage being done to our environment at our own peril.

Over 3,000 people were out in force in my district on Saturday to clean rivers and streams throughout the area.

Since the First Earth Day, we have seen the passage of legislation strengthening the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency, the passage of the Endangered Species Act, and other steps.

Yet, the battle continues. Our environment continues to face threats from pollution. Rising greenhouse gas emissions and climate change will present their own challenge.

Water shortages and droughts not only in our own country but around the world are of great concern. Just today, another report was released showing that rivers in some of the world's most populated regions are losing water, many because of climate change according to researchers.

We could all continue to live without oil, but we can't live without clean water.

The battle to keep invasive species out of our nation's waters will also continue. In the Great Lakes alone, it is estimated that over 180 non-native species have taken hold in the Great Lakes and on average, a new species is discovered every nine months or so.

I was pleased to be at an event yesterday in celebration of Earth Day where I had the chance to address high school students from my district about the importance of the environment and clean water.

It is future generations that stand to lose the most if we do not continue to make the protection and preservation of our environment a priority. This is what Senator Nelson and others understood so well back then. It is what is incumbent on us all, including policymakers, to understand today.

This Congress has a number of efforts underway to ensure that we continue environmental protection remains a prominent place in federal policy.

Senator Nelson was one of the authors of the Wilderness Act of 1964 which authorized the federal government to protect forever areas of our forests with unspoiled and untrammeled wilderness qualities.

Earlier this year, Congress passed by strong bipartisan margins the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2008 (H.R. 146) which would provide wilderness protection to over 2 million acres of federal lands. Senator Nelson would be proud.

The House has also passed legislation—Water Quality Investment Act—reauthorizing the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program which is critical to clean water efforts because it helps pay for building and improving wastewater treatment facilities in our nation's communities.

A number of other important pieces of legislation including a bill to address climate change and another to restore protections to our waterways granted by the Clean Water Act that have been undermined by various court rulings are pending.

Our nation owes Senator Nelson a great deal of appreciation. As we celebrate Earth Day, let us renew our commitment as individuals and as a Congress to continuing to pursue policies that will ensure that our nation's air, water, and natural resources remain a priority and remain protected for future generations to come.

COMMEMORATING EARTH DAY

EARTH DAY 2009

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 39th annual Earth Day celebration. While our Nation is facing many other important and difficult challenges, I think it is incredibly important that we take this day to reflect on the status of our environment and how each of us affects it individually. Little decisions made in our own daily lives snowball into large changes that have tremendous impact—a fact worth remembering.

Earth Day founder and Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson is the perfect example of just how great an impact one person can have. Born in the small town of Clear Lake in northwest Wisconsin, Sen. Nelson went on to become governor of the state and then U.S. Senator. He founded Earth Day in 1970 to put pressing environmental issues on the national political map. Now, 39 years later, Earth Day is celebrated in 175 countries, helping motivate and mobilize hundreds of millions of people to commit to better environmental practices and policies.

Not all of us can have this same kind of global influence, but Earth Day's message of collective action means that each of us has a role in preserving our world for future generations, one step at a time. For instance, if each of us simply replaces one incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent bulb, we would prevent the annual emission of greenhouse gases equal to those of 2 million. We also would save enough electricity to shut down two dirty coal power plants. At the same time, American families would save money, as CFL bulbs use 75 percent less electricity than traditional bulbs—a win-win for the environment and the consumer.

In recent years we have witnessed countless other examples of individuals making decisions that help them go green. For example, Wisconsin leads the nation in anaerobic digesters, which take livestock manure and convert it into biogas that produces clean, renewable energy. Additionally, schools across our state have been able to save on their energy costs and help us meet our carbon management goals by utilizing biomass energy projects. These are just two ways people in my district and my state are doing their part.

On this Earth Day, as I recognize and applaud the actions of countless people around the world, I also challenge each of us to continue our efforts. We must take additional steps to meet our shared environmental challenges and to leave this world a healthy, vibrant, and beautiful place for generations to come.

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, almost forty years ago today, what was an idea to spread awareness about our environment has become global recognition and awareness of the importance of protecting the Earth. Earth Day began in 1970, when 20 million people participated across the U.S.

Earth Day has grown into a global tradition, with a billion people expected to take part this year in 180 nations around the world.

It is a movement that succeeds because of the passion of each individual, realizing that there's something bigger than ourselves—that what each of us contribute can make a difference in our world, and on our environment.

In Washington State, we take special pride in our natural resources, and I'm proud to follow in the footsteps of so many in our great State who have worked together to protect the outdoors and our environment.

One of the popular, natural glories of my Congressional district in Washington State is the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, a 362,000 acre wilderness that sits just west of the Seattle metropolitan area. Just over a week ago, I joined the senior Senator from Washington State to discuss our recently introduced legislation to designate over 22,000 acres of additional wilderness and institute federal protection for two pristine rivers in my district. Our new legislation will expand the boundary of the existing Alpine Lakes wilderness area to embrace important lower-elevation lands, and establish Wild and Scenic designations for the Pratt and parts of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rivers.

Earth Day brings an excitement to the movement of protecting our environment, but we need to take the Earth Day movement from single-day actions—such as park clean-ups and tree-planting parties—to longterm commitments in our everyday lives. Whether that is supporting legislation, or making small changes to be more environmentally conscious, each is equally important. These commitments will make a difference for our children and the generations to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH
ANNIVERSARY OF CRISISLINK**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today to recognize an outstanding organization serving Northern Virginia. CrisisLink is a community-based nonprofit dedicated to crisis prevention, intervention, and response. Since its founding in 1969, CrisisLink has evolved to become an invaluable resource to our communities.

Originally founded as a hotline for Arlington teens, CrisisLink was incorporated in February

1970 as the around-the-clock Northern Virginia Hotline. Just ten years ago, the name of the organization was changed to reflect the extended mission and range of services that CrisisLink has continued to provide. CrisisLink now has the ability to refer callers to over 4,400 resources located in Northern Virginia that can help callers address the problems and situations affecting their lives.

CrisisLink is experiencing a huge increase in demand for its services. Over the past twelve months, the volume of suicide-related calls has increased by 60% when compared to the twelve month period immediately prior and increased by 150% when compared to five years ago. CrisisLink's hotlines are staffed for sixteen hours every day by highly trained volunteers. These volunteers contribute over 15,000 hours of service every year. Virginia Hospital Center provides in-kind contributions totaling over \$500,000 each year including providing \$50,000 worth of space for programs.

Although CrisisLink is often noted for its role as a suicide and crisis intervention hotline, it also provides a number of programs that extend its reach throughout the community. CrisisLink added a 2-1-1 number to serve as a central number to help connect those in need with information on community resources and health and human services. The 2-1-1 call volume has increased by 50% since July 2008. Over 30,000 calls to the CrisisLink hotline and the 2-1-1 number will be answered this year alone.

CrisisLink's programs are estimated to save the Greater Washington region over \$4,320,000 in ambulance, police, 9-1-1, hospital, and follow-up costs by preventing suicide attempts throughout the region. This financial savings multiplies as localities are able to apply these saved resources to greater preventative and proactive measures.

The Tara Sirmans Survivor HOPE program was launched in September 2006. The Help and Outreach for Prevention and Education (HOPE) program works with families and loved ones to help them as they struggle with the intense grief experienced following a suicide or other form of sudden and traumatic loss. Through peer support, workshops, and survivor support groups, the HOPE program works to assist families and friends through the most difficult of situations.

In 2008, Washingtonian Magazine recognized CrisisLink as one of the top charities in the Washington region. CrisisLink was also the recipient of the first ever "National Award for Crisis Center Excellence" for its works responding to the September 11th attack on the Pentagon.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the contributions of CrisisLink over its 40 years of existence. CrisisLink saves lives and prevents tragedies. Perhaps someday our society will no longer need services such as CrisisLink, but until that day, we are grateful for their selfless and critical service. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the dedicated staff and volunteers who are so deserving of our recognition for their commitment to helping those in their time of need.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 23

9 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Raymond Edwin Mabus, Jr., of Mississippi, to be Secretary, and Robert O. Work, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary, both of the Department of the Navy, Elizabeth Lee King, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Michael Nacht, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Global Strategic Affairs, and Wallace C. Gregson, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, all of the Department of Defense, Donald Michael Remy, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, and Jo-Ellen Darcy, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, both of the Department of the Army, and Ines R. Triay, of New Mexico, to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management.

SD-106

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine war powers in the 21st Century.

SD-419

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Employment and Workplace Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine introducing meaningful incentives for safe workplaces and meaningful roles for victims and their families.

SD-430

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine financing for deployment of clean energy and energy efficiency technologies and to enhance United States' competitiveness in this market through the creation of a Clean Energy Deployment Administration within the Department of Energy.

SD-366

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michelle DePass, of New York, and Cynthia J. Giles, of Rhode Island, both to be Assistant Administrators, and Mathy Stanislaus, of New Jersey, to be Assistant Administrator for Office of Solid Waste, all of the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-406

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine cyber security, focusing on developing a national strategy.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Victims of Crime Act, focusing on 25 years of protecting and supporting victims.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine formaldehyde in textiles and consumer products.

SR-253

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Harold Hongju Koh, of Connecticut, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

SD-419

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine individual state experiences with health care reform coverage initiatives in the context of national reform.

SD-430

Judiciary

Immigration, Refugees and Border Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine comprehensive immigration reform in 2009.

SD-226

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the future of national surface transportation policy.

SR-253

APRIL 29

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Johnnie Carson, of Illinois, to be Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, and Luis C. de Baca, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, both of the Department of State.

SD-419

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending benefits related legislation.

SR-418

10 a.m.

Judiciary

Crime and Drugs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine restoring fairness to federal sentencing, focusing on addressing the crack-powder disparity.

SD-226

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ivan K. Fong, of Ohio, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nomination of Timothy W. Manning, of New Mexico, to be Deputy Administrator for National Preparedness, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

SD-342

2 p.m.

Aging

To hold hearings to examine the life settlement market, focusing on what is at stake for seniors.

SD-106

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the federal government's role in empowering Americans to make informed financial decisions.

SD-342

Armed Services

Personnel Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the implementation of Wounded Warrior policies and programs.

SH-216

APRIL 30

10 a.m.

Appropriations

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2010 for the War Supplemental.

SD-106

2 p.m.

Armed Services

Airland Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the current and future roles, missions, and capabilities of United States military air power.

SR-222

MAY 6

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Roger W. Baker, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology, William A. Gunn, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Jose D. Riojas, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary for Operations, Security, and Preparedness, and John U. Sepulveda, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Human Resources, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SR-418

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Communications and Technology Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the future of journalism.

SR-253

MAY 21

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

Business meeting to markup pending legislation.

SR-418